

EUROPEAN NEWS

Italian regions endorse Cossiga coalition

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE ITALIAN government coalition headed by Sig. Francesco Cossiga has emerged well from the regional elections, with strong performances by all its three parties, and particularly the Socialists.

With counting complete in the voting for the assemblies of the 15 normal-status regions, the Christian Democrats had boosted their share of the poll to 36.5 per cent from 35.3 per cent at the previous elections of 1975, while the Socialists had gone up

from 15 per cent to 12.7 per cent. The Communists slipped back to 31.5 per cent from 33.4 per cent five years ago.

The Christian Democrats gained 13 seats and the Socialists four, while the Communists lost 14. The precise effect on the political composition of various regional administrations will only be settled by complicated bargaining.

In three out of the six "red regions," which had Communist-dominated councils up to the elections, the Communists

have lost their absolute left-wing majority. In two of these, Piedmont and Liguria, the Communists may succeed in retaining power.

But in the Lazio region around Rome, a swing to the Christian Democrats has left it the largest party and probably opened the way for a centre-left regional administration, with the Communists in opposition.

The broad movement away from the Communists has been confirmed by the results of the voting for the coun-

try's 86 provincial assemblies, completed last night, with five-sixths of the count completed, the Christian Democrats had advanced 1.6 per cent to 36.4 per cent, while the Communists dropped by 2.3 per cent to 30.2 per cent.

The Italian Prime Minister will now embark on the important meetings in Venice this month on a stronger footing than before, and have greater authority to tackle the country's mounting economic difficulties.

But he remains haunted by

allegations that he tipped off Sig. Carlo Donat Cattin, the Christian Democrat former vice-president, that police were searching for his son, Marco, a wanted terrorist. Collection of the 318 signatures of deputies and senators required for the case to be reopened before parliament begins tomorrow. There is little doubt that the Communists, who have mounted the campaign against Sig. Cossiga, will attract the backers they require.

All sides claim election success

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE ITALIAN regional and local elections of last weekend will go down as the poll which everybody won. The results have been interpreted in many contradictory fashions as there are political parties. A vote whose importance to national politics was emphasised ceaselessly before the event has amounted to a resounding confirmation of the political status quo.

As a result, the election outcome is unlikely to break the stalemate in Italian political life. But it underlines again, if any further proof were needed, the paradox of Italian politics: while governments may be inherently unstable, the electorate itself is remarkably stable. In the meantime, every party is proclaiming satisfaction and trumpeting victory.

For the Christian Democrats, there is much to cheer. With 36.5 per cent of the vote, the ruling party has advanced significantly from the 35.3 per cent it won at the last regional elections in 1975 which carried the Communists to within a whisker of becoming the country's largest party. At the same time, the less accommodating line of the new party leadership towards the Communists, which emerged at the Christian Democrat congress in March, has won at least a cautious endorsement from the electorate, and, with it, the present government formula allying the party with the Republicans and the Socialists.

For the Socialists, triumph is even more clearcut. Their share of the vote, at 12.7 per cent, is higher than in any nationwide election since 1963. True, the figure might have been swollen artificially by the deliberate choice of the left-wing Radical party not to take part in the elections. Many of its supporters



The results were a triumph for Sig. Craxi (left); for Sig. Berlinguer (right) they could have been worse.

almost certainly opted for the Socialists instead.

None the less, the outcome can only reinforce the position of Sig. Bettino Craxi, the Socialist party leader, and increase his authority over his ever-mutinous Left wing. It was Sig. Craxi after all who rode roughshod over the sensibilities of the Left to bring the party back into government last April for the first time in six years. A setback now would have given new ammunition to the Left and to the minority "Left" faction of the Christian Democrats, both of which favour a more open line towards the Communists as the only means of tackling Italy's deep-rooted social and economic problems.

In the event, Sig. Craxi has been vindicated, and the threat that his party would withdraw abruptly from government, pro-

ducing a new crisis, has receded at least for the time being.

At first glance, the combination of these considerations might seem to indicate a bleak election night for Sig. Enrico Berlinguer's Communist party. Compared to 1975, the party dropped 1.4 per cent of the vote. Its share of the poll edged a fraction further from the 31.8 per cent it won in last June's general election, which saw the seemingly irresistible Communist ascent reversed for the first time in 30 years.

However, the Communists are relieved above all that worse was avoided. These elections have demonstrated that if there is a bedrock of 37 or 38 per cent for the Christian Democrats, one of 30 or 31 per cent exists for the Communists. Not only does it ensure that the party's views have to be taken

into account, but that the fundamental and painful reappraisal of strategy which would have been forced upon the Communists by a further steep drop, may be sidestepped.

Although the left-wing majorities in the Piedmont, Liguria and Lazio regional administrations have disappeared, it is possible that remodelled "red juntas" may be formed there if centrist party support can be attracted in the weeks (or even months) of intricate negotiations that will follow. In any event, this weekend's results do not constitute the ringing public verdict of failure by left-wing local administrations that the Christian Democrats were demanding.

So what are the implications for the present three-party coalition government? Sig. Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister? In the short term, they seem encouraging. Not only the Socialists but the smaller Republican party held its own, despite fears of a reverse.

The Communists' avowed aim of using the regional elections as a referendum to produce a public vote of no-confidence in Sig. Cossiga has failed. In the medium term, however, a number of question marks remain. The Socialists' position is likely to see that party demanding a higher price for its co-operation and rekindle Sig. Craxi's ambition to become Italy's first post-war Socialist Prime Minister. The smaller Liberal and Social Democrat parties, both of which fared reasonably well, are also likely to step up their demands to return to government.

More immediately, there is the potential landmine of the threatened "impeachment" hearing before both Houses of Parliament at which Sig. Cossiga would answer allegations that,

wittingly or unwittingly, he helped in the flight of Marco Donat Cattin, who is wanted on terrorist charges. He is the son of Sig. Carlo Donat Cattin, the former Christian Democrat vice-president. It is taken for granted that the Communists will secure the 318 signatures of Deputies and Senators needed to re-open the case; thereafter nothing is certain.

The Government also has to deliver on its promise of swift action to tackle Italy's mounting economic problems, which have led to repeated talk of a lira devaluation. Petrol prices are set to go up further within days, but the more painful treatment (possibly involving higher taxation) risks creating problems between the Christian Democrats and the Socialists in particular. A clearer idea will only be possible with the publication of the economic recovery plan.

Failure by the Government to act carries with it the wider risk of accentuating the already profound gap between the politicians and the people they are supposed to rule. Signs of this dissatisfaction have recently become alarming. This weekend's 88.5 per cent turnout, although enormous by other Western standards, was the lowest in any major election since the war.

If spoiled and blank ballot papers are included, 17.7 per cent of the electorate did not cast a valid vote. In part, the explanation is a surfeit of voting. No less than five nationwide elections have been held in Italy in the past five years. But if a duty, hitherto so punctiliously carried out, still fails to produce any improvement in the quality of politicians and government, it is no wonder that people begin to ask themselves: "Why bother?"

Plea for Bonn's aid on EEC spending

By Jonathan Carr in Bonn

BRITAIN and West Germany must work together to bring European Community spending under better control, according to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Speaking in Bonn yesterday, a day after Chancellor Helmut Schmidt publicly demanded EEC spending reforms, Sir Geoffrey described this as "a major common interest vital to our two countries."

He told the Association of German Chambers of Commerce that even after the recent compromise on the EEC budget issue, Britain would still be contributing more than 600m units of account to Brussels in 1980, and West Germany much more.

There was no point in national Governments struggling to hold down expenditure if they allowed multinational organisations to increase their demands, he said.

Sir Geoffrey thus urged action to reduce EEC farm subsidies while assuring his audience that Britain did not oppose the principle of a common agricultural policy.

On the contrary, the British fully recognised the benefits of increased self-sufficiency in food, he said.

The British Chancellor, who is meeting German Ministers and industrialists during his visit to Bonn, appeared to have struck the right note.

Herr Schmidt made clear yesterday that he was not questioning the existence of the CAP. Only the way in which the immutable principles of the CAP were being translated into action.

It is recognised in Bonn that any attack on the CAP principles would quickly arouse fierce resistance, not least in France. Apparently with this in mind, Sir Geoffrey noted that one CAP principle favoured food for consumers at "reasonable prices."

Sir Geoffrey said he hoped that Bonn would help Britain in trying to obtain cheaper air fares in Europe. But any Germans who hoped that he might have some new offer to make with respect to North Sea Oil were disappointed. The Chancellor said there was an exaggerated view of the contribution that North Sea Oil could make. Britain was not obtaining a windfall every time the price of oil went up and Britain's period of oil self-sufficiency would be "rather short."

Bolivian army tries to expel U.S. ambassador

BY HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

AMID INSISTENT rumours of a pending military coup d'état in Bolivia, senior officers, acting in concert with the Bolivian Socialist Fublaux and other Right-wing civilian groups, are stepping up their pressure for the expulsion of Mr. Marvin Weissman, the U.S. ambassador.

Mr. Weissman has been making it clear for several months that his government is opposed to a military grip and he has thrown his influence behind the general elections, scheduled for June 29, which the military want cancelled.

On Monday night, Second Army Corps commanders in the conservative minded city of Santa Cruz, in the far south east of Bolivia, declared their "forces in a state of emergency" until Mr. Weissman left the country.

The officers demanded that President Lidio Gueiler remained in power for at least another year, pending the "total reorganisation of the country."

The officers made the call after the expiry of the 72-hour ultimatum they gave on Friday for the departure of Mr. Weissman.

Senior officers had also been annoyed at civilian moves to prosecute General Hugo Banzer for alleged offences he committed during his presidency, which ended in 1976. Many military men want General Banzer back as president. Were he to return it would be the 18th coup in Bolivia's 154 years of independent existence.

If there is a coup the COB trade union federation has threatened to call a general



Gen. Banzer

strike and to throw up road blocks. The hand of Right-wing extremists is seen in the air crash accident a week ago in which several Left of centre politicians died and one, Sr Jaime Paz, was severely injured. The aircraft, which crashed shortly after take-off, was expected to be carrying Sr. Hernan Siles Zuazo, the Left's main presidential hope in this month's elections, but he cancelled his trip at the last moment.

The temper of the armed forces was well reflected by an incident last Saturday when Lt-Col. Carlos Estrada, commander of the Colorado presidential guard, attempted to force his way into President Gueiler's apartment armed with a rifle. He was disarmed and arrested by another officer.

Poor start for Canadian talks on constitution

BY ROBERT GIBBENS IN MONTREAL

CANADA'S renewed effort at constitutional reform got off to a poor start yesterday.

A conference attended by Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and the ten provincial premiers, agreed on 12 priorities and a target date in early September for decisions on them. But the differences that have prevented reform for more than ten years were as prominent as ever.

● Mr. Rene Levesque, Premier of Quebec, insisted on self-determination for his province. It was his defeat in a referendum on May 20, when he asked Quebec voters for authority to negotiate sovereignty, which caused the rest of Canada to make another attempt at constitutional reform.

● One of the eastern Canadian provinces insisted that it must have jurisdiction over its fisheries.

● Several provinces jibbed at Mr. Trudeau's proposal that minority rights, whether French or English, must be entrenched in any new constitution for Canada.

● Premiers of western

provinces, which supply Canada with its domestic supplies of oil and gas, were preoccupied with a new oil-pricing formula now under negotiation between Ottawa and the main producing province, Alberta.

Mr. Trudeau offered ten principles for constitutional change. They were rejected by the premiers who said they were too oriented to central government.

It has been one of Mr. Trudeau's chief ambitions to give Canada a constitution of its own. At present, the British North America Act of 1867 serves as a constitution. It was passed by the British Parliament and the most sensitive clauses, especially where they concern the division of powers between Ottawa and the Canadian provinces, may be changed only if the federal and provincial governments all concur.

At the last attempt to arrive at a Canadian constitution, in 1971, it was Quebec that used its veto. But other provinces could easily do the same in the future.

Giscard reviews nuclear strategy

By Robert Mauthner in Paris

FRANCE'S choice of nuclear weapons up to the year 2010 and the related problems of defence strategy were discussed yesterday at a defence council presided over by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Little was expected to be made public about the meeting as the President wants to wait until his Press conference on June 26 to inform the country of his decisions about defence policy. But it is clear that the main debate is between advocates of an exclusively massive nuclear retaliation capacity and those who believe that more emphasis should be placed on tactical nuclear weapons.

The arguments on both sides have been given a public airing recently in successive reports published by the pro-Giscard UDF party and the Gaullist RPR. While the UDF has come out in favour of the development of large numbers of tactical nuclear weapons, including the neutron bomb, the Gaullists have stuck firmly to the orthodox view that only the strengthening of the strategic nuclear missile forces will deter aggressors effectively.

The disagreement between the two parties on the type of weapons which should be developed reflects fundamental differences over the kind of war which France should be planning to fight. The President's supporters believe that France would inevitably become involved in a conflict as soon as Warsaw Pact troops crossed the Elbe.

The Gaullists reject any suggestion that France should fight at the side of member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. But they say, in a limited conflict in Europe it should be made clear to a potential aggressor that, in the event of a direct attack on French territory, he would immediately expose himself to the full force of massive nuclear retaliation.

M. Giscard d'Estaing may well decide to step up the production of tactical nuclear weapons, but observers believe that he will also opt for a strengthening of the nuclear missile-launching submarine force.

Plans are reported to be under consideration for increasing this force from its present strength of five to 10 by the beginning of the next century. The Gaullists are calling for construction of an additional 15 missile-launching submarines.

W. German court endorses use of lock-out

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WEST GERMAN employers are entitled to lock striking workers out during industrial disputes, according to a major ruling yesterday by the country's Federal Labour Court.

The judgment is a considerable disappointment to West German trade unions which had hoped that the court would at least outlaw national lock-outs against selective, local strikes. The unions directly involved in the case, the IG Druck und Papier printers' union and the IG Metall metal-workers' federation, had argued that national lock-outs gave employers an advantage in wage negotiations. The widespread

use of the lock-out, by imposing financial sacrifices on workers, also undermined their constitutional right to strike, they said.

The court found that employers were not justified in using the lock-out in two out of six test cases arising out of 1978 disputes in the print and steel industries. But the court was adamant that the lock-out remains a legitimate device.

The employers had maintained that lock-outs not only were a natural counterpart to strikes but also speeded up the settlement of labour disputes.

The labour court did not go quite as far as the employers would have liked. It stressed

that lock-outs should be used sparingly and that the threat should not be used to inhibit workers from using their right to strike.

The trade unions, as Herr Karl-Heinz Janzen of IG Metall's executive board said after the judgment, will now have to rethink their negotiating strategy. The powerful IG Metall has particularly favoured local rather than industry-wide strikes because it is both cheaper and more effective to reduce a small number of plants to a standstill than to fight steel employers as a whole. Thus, in the case being considered by the court, only 3 per cent of the

union's 2.8m members were actually on strike. IG Metall paid out some DM 40m (£3.7m) in strike pay but then had to pay an extra DM 87m when employers started to lock workers out in other parts of the country.

The German trade unions are relatively rich and can generally afford costs of this magnitude. But lock-out costs weaken their bargaining position and inhibit industrial action in the next wage round. Lock-outs also create discontent among those workers not directly involved in the dispute. This discontent is sometimes channelled towards the central union leadership

Gloomy forecasts for Norway

BY FAY GJETER IN OSLO

PESSIMISTIC PREDICTIONS about Norway's economy have come this week from two authoritative sources—the Federation of Industry, and the Norwegian Association of Commercial Banks.

Both foresee a double-digit inflation rate this year. The Association's forecast is 13 per cent, the Federation of Industry's 10 per cent. These compare with the "very tentative" estimate of 9.5 per cent made last month by the Government, when it published its economic forecast for 1980. The official hope is that inflation abroad will be even steeper than in Norway, so that Norwegian

goods will become relatively more competitive on foreign markets.

Mr. Sverre Walter Rostoft, managing director of the Commercial Banks Association, does not share this hope. In an interview with *Norges Industri*, a magazine published by the Federation of Industry, he said he doubted that Norway would be able to pull its costs—relative to competitors—back to the level of the early 1970s. This was the period before the government began spending oil revenues in advance, in order to maintain employment through the mid 1970s recession.

Though the spending spree

was exchanged, three years ago, for a more cautious strategy (including a price and incomes freeze last year), Norwegian industry's competitiveness has so far been only partially restored.

The Federation of Industry, in its half year report, also stresses the poor profit record of Norwegian industry. It puts much of the blame for this in the Government, which has pursued expansive fiscal policies and spent revenues to prop up ailing, unprofitable industries, thereby pushing up costs and immobilising scarce labour that could be better used elsewhere.

Dutch Socialists urge reduced nuclear role

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE DUTCH Labour Party now believes that the Netherlands should remain a member of NATO, though with a reduced nuclear role, according to the party's draft election manifesto, which is the largest party in Parliament. It is also firmly against any deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

The draft manifesto, which still has to be approved by the party congress early next year, represents a victory for the more moderate wing, led by the parliamentary leader, Mr. Joop Den Uyl. He indicated at the presentation of the manifesto that he would resign if the congress rejected the line taken by the executive committee.

The last party congress had produced a large majority in favour of removing all nuclear weapons from Dutch soil. The

new election manifesto calls for a reduction of the Netherlands' nuclear role within NATO and for continued independent efforts to reduce the role of nuclear weapons.

The executive wants the Dutch nuclear role to be reduced to one or two tasks. At present, the Netherlands is assigned six nuclear tasks, including the launching of Nike and Lance missiles armed with nuclear warheads, the laying of nuclear mines and the stationing of fighters and bombers with nuclear capability.

Despite the compromise view reached on nuclear weapons the party has maintained its opposition to NATO's plan to modernise its nuclear missile armory. The Netherlands has delayed until December 1981 a decision about the stationing of the new missiles on Dutch soil

to see whether disarmament talks with the Soviet Union produce results.

The relatively moderate line Labour is taking on defence is thought likely to increase the chance of it reaching agreement with other parties on a coalition Government. Despite its strong position in Parliament, Labour is not a member of the governing coalition because it failed to reach a compromise with the Christian Democrats in 1977.

Labour has not done particularly well in recent opinion polls but the successes of one of the smaller left-wing parties, Democrats 66, has improved the chances of a return to power of a left-wing coalition.

● Anti-nuclear demonstrators yesterday blocked the mouth of IJmuiden harbour, near Amsterdam, to prevent the sailing of a vessel loaded with low-level radioactive waste. Members of the Greenpeace ecological action group pushed boats in the harbour entrance in a second day of concerted protest against the dumping of the waste in the Atlantic. Greenpeace and other protest groups appeared yesterday to the Council of State, the supreme Government advisory body, to revoke the licence granted by the Minister of Health, which authorises the operation. Demonstrators also attempted to block roads leading from the nuclear laboratory at Petten, north of the Dutch capital, to prevent lorries loaded with the waste from getting through.

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Industrial revolutions

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David Buchan explains why the people of Liberty City threw bottles at the President when he toured their ghetto

Not good enough, Miami blacks tell empty-handed Carter

FLYING BOTTLES and angry jeers greeted President Jimmy Carter as he toured Liberty City, Miami's main black ghetto and the scene last month of the country's worst race riot for 12 years.

Armed only with a sermon against violence and condolences for the relatives of the 16 people killed and the owners of the \$100m worth of property destroyed in the riots, Mr. Carter might not have expected any different a welcome.

He promised that the Federal Government would meet the inhabitants of Liberty City "half way" in rebuilding their community, but made no specific commitments and warned Miami blacks they were making "a very serious mistake" if they thought the Federal Government would pick up the entire bill for mending the riot damage.

Instead, he stressed that his 1980-81 budget plan had gone far enough in helping the poor and minorities, and that for the moment at least, he was not about to unbalance that budget with new commitments, either to Miami or to alleviate recession-level unemployment, which has pushed the jobless rate for young blacks to an alarming 35 per cent.

For the moment, too, the Federal cupboard is bare, in the sense that the Government's disaster fund is now virtually

empty. It will not be re-filled until Congress passes, along with the new budget, a \$427m appropriation in new disaster aid. Other disasters, such as the Mount St. Helens eruption, have been given a higher priority.

The Administration has taken some steps outside the economic area to prevent a repeat of the Miami riots. It has dispatched from Washington extra FBI agents and civil rights lawyers to monitor the activities of Miami police and law enforcement authorities, which were the trigger for the riots. The office of Mrs. Janet Reno, the chief prosecuting officer for Miami's surrounding Dade County is being investigated by the Governor of Florida.

The four white policemen acquitted of beating to death Mr. Arthur McDuffie, a black, are now before a federal grand jury. The case of a white Highway patrol officer alleged to have sexually molested an 11-year-old black girl, has been reopened but the officer in question has suddenly gone underground.

But the economic roots of the riots were the focus of Mr. Carter's flying visit to the city on Monday—and so far the only help Washington is offering is low-interest loans and loan guarantees by the small business administration.

"Hail to the chief racist"

and "Mr. Peanut Man, we need more than peanuts" were two of the placards held high by blacks demonstrating at the President's motorcade through Liberty City. But while Mr. Carter's strictures on the need for self-help met with angry dismay among the black community, the reaction from the white business establishment was one of resigned expectation and an awareness, from some of its leaders, that the private sector in Miami's generally booming economy is going to have to help to set Liberty City aright.

"We have the ability to do much of this on our own, and we want to do it," claims Mr. Ray Goode, who heads the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Goode was Dade County manager in the early 1970s, and closely involved in rebuilding after the 1968 riots, which were on a much smaller scale. Then, he says, the Miami business sector was smaller, but happily, Federal aid more available. Now, the situation is reversed.

Last month's rampage did more physical damage to property than any other previous riot in the U.S. (even when adjusted for inflation). Buildings burnt or goods looted totalled \$100m, of which \$65m was insured. City riots in the



Angry blacks attack Carter in Miami.

1960s never exceeded \$50m individually in damage.

Three weeks after the riot, only one local institution, the Capital Bank, which has two branches in the Miami black ghettos—Liberty City and Coco-

nut Grove—has come forward and offered up to \$10m for businesses to get started again, mainly to restock after looting. The rest of the banks have so far been hanging back, waiting for the lead from Washington

that is now unlikely to come. Some 3,000 people, mainly blacks, are reckoned to have lost their jobs in the riot areas. A group of locally-based big companies—Eastern Airlines, South East First National Bank of Miami (the city's biggest bank), a couple of big real estate companies, and Southern Bell Telephone—have pledged to speed up their hiring of blacks.

If Miami is spared another outbreak of racial violence, the city will undoubtedly regain its reputation for stability. But some immediate damage has been done. An electronics firm has, for instance, just informed the city that Miami is no longer on its list of possible sites for a \$20m plant, with 1,200 jobs.

Tourism, a main prop of the economy, seems to have rebounded from the 20 per cent drop in business in the first week after the riots. Many of the city's big hotels are physically isolated from the main city on Miami beach, where for instance liquor sales were never stopped as they were downtown.

City tourist officials said yesterday that business was back at last year's levels, though Miami's annual average 15 per cent growth in tourism has for the time being been halted. Most important to the

city, holidaying Britons have not been deterred.

In conjunction with the Intasun and Cosmos British charter operations, Laker Airways, which opened its Miami to Gatwick service four days after the riots is expected to bring about 300,000 to 350,000 Britons to the city this year, double the number brought last year.

The current strength of sterling against the dollar is making Britain the fastest-growing tourist market for Miami, in its already fast-growing international tourist business.

Miami remains relatively stable compared with Latin America as an investment haven for money from the South, and there are few fears that the May, 1980, riots will affect the city as a growing financial centre. Undiminished by riots, too, is the insalubrious influx of money from the drug trade. The U.S. Congress has recently been holding hearings on this, and a Treasury report estimated that in 1978 alone some \$108m was deposited in Miami banks by suspected drug smugglers.

Mr. Goode and his business colleagues would not spurn Federal aid—particularly to help with the re-settling of Cuban and Haitian refugees. "If," he says, "we are going to

be the principal port of entry and final destination of new refugees in the U.S.

So far, too, the state of Florida has been unhelpful. The State legislature has just approved the setting up of a non-profit development corporation to rebuild after the riots, but denied it money by rejecting a 1 cent increase in the Dade County sales tax.

So, the Chamber of Commerce is resigned to trying to do a lot on its own. Mr. Goode says it is now more pressing to launch a previously planned \$750,000 promotion campaign to win new investment and provide the area with 166,000 new jobs within five years. A chamber delegation will again be visiting Britain and Europe this November, trying to get more high technology companies to emulate Rolls-Royce's recent decision to set up a plant in Miami.

One or two businesses in Liberty City are already pulling themselves up by their bootstraps. A furniture manufacturer has his partially destroyed and looted business on its feet again—because a local bank gave him credit, his customers leeway in fulfilling their orders, and his 50 employees two weeks work free of charge. But it will need much more of that local co-operation to set Miami to rights.

Plea to envoy over alert errors

MR. KINGMAN BREWSTER, U.S. Ambassador in London, is to be asked to meet a deputation from the British Labour Party to discuss the three computer malfunctions causing missile alerts.

The party's international committee passed an emergency resolution, warning that Britain would be a "sitting duck" in the event of a further mistake leading to conflict. The resolution said that these mistakes had enormously strengthened Labour's case against deployment of U.S. cruise missiles.

"In an emergency, and in an atmosphere of high tension, these missiles could be launched on the President's instruction, with time only for the most fragmentary consultation."

Companies cut spending plans as recession bites

BY OUR U.S. EDITOR

AMERICAN companies have further reduced their capital spending plans in the face of the economic recession, the Commerce Department reported.

The survey, conducted in late April and May, when the economic downturn had begun to bite appreciably, found that companies planned to invest only 9.9 per cent more this year than last—an increase, after inflation is accounted for, of only about 7 per cent.

In a similar survey undertaken in February and March, companies expected to increase investment by over 11 per cent—more than 7 per cent in real terms—while throughout last year the real increase in spending on plant and equipment amounted to about 6 per cent.

As is only to be expected, the car industry leads the way

among those who have scaled down spending plans, along with electrical machinery manufacturers, utilities (though not gas) and producers of non-ferrous metals.

On the other, more bullish side, aircraft manufacturers are projecting a substantial increase in spending, of over 30 per cent, while iron and steel foresees a 25 per cent advance in outlays. Healthy gains are also forecast for the pulp and paper and petroleum sectors.

AP-DJ adds from Washington: The U.S. Agriculture Department says it will soon begin approving financial aid to help farmers build fuel alcohol stills and methane plants.

Mr. Bob Bergland, the Agricultural Secretary, said that the Department of Energy is providing \$2.3m in grants

Canada joins U.S. in car talks

By Victor Mackie in Ottawa

Canadian and U.S. officials will meet on June 27 to discuss the operation of the 15-year-old Canada-U.S. pact on car production.

Mr. Herb Gray, the Canadian Industry Minister, disclosed yesterday. Mr. Gray will meet Mr. Reuben Askew, the U.S. trade representative for talks in Washington but the agenda is not expected to be set until just before the meeting. Officials said it would be a high-level discussion.

Aside from expressing Canadian alarm over a \$34.1bn (£1.5bn) trade deficit on cars with the U.S., Mr. Gray is expected to discuss the effect of vehicle imports to North America.

U.S. ELECTION

Front-runners stifle opponents

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER and Mr. Ronald Reagan yesterday continued to pursue political manoeuvring to strengthen their position as candidates—presumptive of their respective parties.

The President was in Seattle addressing the National Conference of Mayors, having ensured in advance that his rival for the Democratic nomination, Senator Edward Kennedy, should not speak to the same forum on the same day.

Mr. Kennedy, who was due to appear before the Mayors only an hour or so after Mr. Carter had spoken, switched venues and went to Southern California to speak to the Conference of Local Government Unions, who have already endorsed his candidacy.

Mayor Richard Carver of Peoria, Illinois, explained that the White House had made it clear that it would be "unacceptable" for the President and the Senator to speak in Seattle on the same day and that the invitation to Mr. Kennedy had therefore been withdrawn, denying him the opportunity of presenting his case.

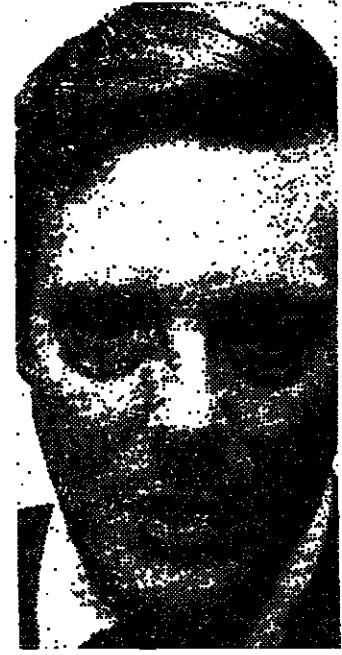
Meanwhile, it became clear that Mr. Reagan's strategists want to replace former Congressman Bill Brock as the Republican Party's national chairman before, or at the start of, next month's party convention in Detroit.

Only a month ago, Mr. Reagan said he could see no reason to replace Mr. Brock. But his inner circle of advisers believe

that Mr. Brock has failed one key test of political acceptability in that he vetoed spending party funds on the conservative drive to prevent ratification of the Panama Canal treaties two years ago.

The Reagan camp also wants to ensure maximum control over the running of the autumn campaign, and feels it is entitled to choose its own party chairman. Mr. Brock recently sent a letter to senior Republicans announcing his intention of seeking re-election to the post at the convention, a move which offended Reagan loyalists.

Mr. Brock is generally considered a moderate and is popular with the party hierarchy. His removal could provoke a battle between the right and centre wings of the party.



Mr. Bill Brock... out of favour in the Reagan camp over Panama Canal treaties

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The Post Office is publishing free of charge, copies of a series of specially commissioned articles on small freight and parcels distribution by independent experts. Here is a précis of the eighth in the series—written by John McVitie, Marketing Operations Manager of The Joint Credit Card Co.

The use of credit cards in Mail Order

The purchaser of goods through mail order—and here 'mail order' refers to all direct response selling—has a number of payment options. He can pay cash; or he can use one of the many credit schemes.

In many cases the principal attraction of mail order buying is the availability of credit from the mail order company. This is important to the agency catalogue companies, which generally offer 20 to 38 weeks of 'free' credit. The chief advantage of this method being that the cost of credit can be easily built into the price, thus minimising the impact of a credit charge to the consumer.

To the company selling 'off the page', alternative means of providing credit are usually desirable. After all, the organisation actually providing the credit bears much of the burden of funding, bad debt risk and financial administration. The most important source of customer credit for such companies is the credit card.

Credit cards: advantages and growth The credit card is easy to use; credit is easily obtained and this can encourage the buyer to 'trade up'. There has been a large increase in the use of credit cards over the last three years. Now some 2,000 companies specifically trading through mail or 'phone orders are using credit card payment facilities—with up to 60% of some companies' business being transacted in this way.

The weighted graph shows the relationship between credit card mail

order turnover and total credit card turnover.

Areas of use The areas of use for selling direct with credit cards as the method of payment are many. One of the most interesting developments is by the shop or store wishing to widen its target market beyond its traditional 'walk in' customers. And selling directed at the credit card holders market, now well in excess of 7 million and growing, is selling directed at a market with much purchasing potential.

Systems of use Response to a direct selling advertisement may be by post or 'phone. As a security check, goods over an agreed 'floor limit' require authorisation by the credit card company. Once given, the mail order company then arranges for goods to be sent and completes a special form enabling the transfer of funds to take place. Although systems between credit card companies differ slightly, monies are credited to the mail order companies' bank accounts quickly.

The credit card companies' usual charge for services start at around 5% of the mail order company's credit card turnover.

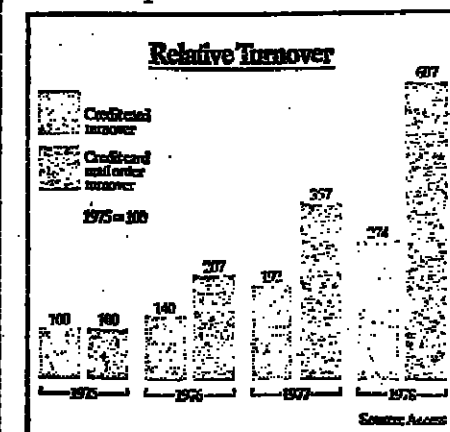
Areas of concern The credit card companies themselves try to ensure that the companies using them are respectable and will not incur them in losses. This has contributed, along with the British Direct Marketing Assc, readers' protection schemes set up by the Newspaper Publisher's Assc and Periodical Publishers Assc, and the increased efficiency and marketing expertise of the mail order companies, to the respectability of mail orders as a whole. Today, the publishers' associations and the internal security systems of the credit card companies go a long way to ensuring that the mail order purchaser does not get more than he bargained for.

The future The outlook for mail order is itself

promising. There will be more mail order companies developing; more businesses moving into mail order as an extension to their usual trading activity; and more and more stores taking on the direct marketing concept.

There are two new developments awaiting full exploitation. 'Cash' order advertising on TV; and Prestel, the Post Office developed viewdata service, which enables the user to obtain information from a computer by means of a specially adapted television receiver used in conjunction with the public telephone service. The Prestel system is interactive and the availability of facilities for use of credit cards adds an exciting new dimension to direct selling through the Prestel service.

All in all, the prospects for growth within the credit card market and within mail order industry are very encouraging.



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Please send me... copies of the full article: 'The role of credit cards in mail order' by John McVitie. I would also like copies of the previous articles in the series.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Kevin Rafferty, in Port Vila, reports on the dilemma faced by France and Britain in the New Hebrides

Santo's low farce could turn to tragedy

FATHER WALTER LINI, the Chief Minister of the New Hebrides, has presented Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and President Giscard d'Estaing with an awkward choice in asking for troops to put down the rebellion on the island of Espiritu Santo. That the territory stands on the verge of independence and Britain and France, the colonial powers, will be in charge for only another seven weeks makes the choice the more difficult.

If they reject his request, they are condoning an armed rebellion against their authority and that of the fledgling elected government in a sensitive area of the world. As one New Hebridean official put it: "It is a rotten leaving present."

The rebellion is led by Mr. Jimmy Stevens, whose local support comes from a motley gang of disgruntled opportunists like himself. One of Mr. Stevens' own grievances was that under the constitution of the new country he could not be sure of full citizenship rights. This is because he is only half-New Hebridean: his father was half-Tongan and half-British. In offering negotiations last week, Father Lini agreed to

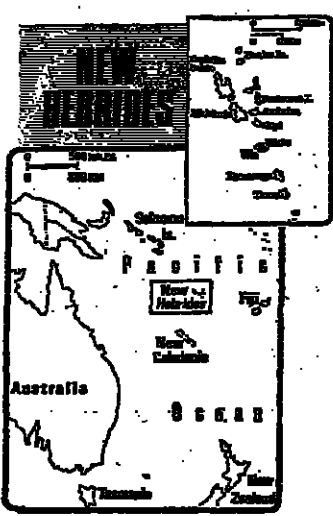
give Mr. Stevens full citizenship. But Mr. Stevens could not manage without money from the Phoenix Foundation, an American organisation financed by a group of businessmen led by Mr. Michael Oliver. For years they have been looking for a suitable haven of their own. They tried in the Caribbean and were turned out; they tried in Tonga and failed. Now they have put more than \$1m and a gold coinage into Espiritu Santo.

Nor could Mr. Stevens manage without the active support of French settlers among the island's 16,000 people. Some of these have been landowners for more than a century, but under the new constitution at independence, the land they are working reverts to the "customary," or native, owners.

They are backed by a number of French officials, at least privately. This is what lifts the rebellion, and the rebels with their bows and arrows and penis shields, above the level of low farce.

Behind the primitive weapons and romantic tropical setting are important issues of the rights and duties of colonial powers, of Anglo-French co-operation, and, most important of all, of the ambitions of France in the Pacific.

The New Hebrides has always



been difficult to govern largely because it is the world's only condominium with Britain and France as its colonial rulers. It long ago earned the nickname of "pandemonium" because it boasted two sets of rulers, two sets of immigration officials, two sets of stamps, two educational systems and three legal codes to cater for a string of 80 tiny islands and a mere 112,000 people.

Disagreements between the colonial powers grew worse with demands for New Hebridean independence. The British, who had dismantled the bulk of their

Pacific empire, wanted to get out quickly. France appeared to want to cling on for as long as possible and agreed only this month to an independence day of July 30.

French hesitation is understandable. Not far to the south west of the New Hebrides is the French colony of New Caledonia, site of one of the world's biggest nickel mines in the world, run by the French company Societe Le Nickel. To the east lies French Polynesia, site for France's nuclear tests.

In addition, the French have noticed the threats of Father Lini and some of his supporters to help build an independence movement in New Caledonia, or to take the French to the UN anti-colonialism committee.

Until recently, the French were in a strong position. Father Gerard Leymann, the Roman Catholic former Chief Minister, was regarded as their man. But in the election for the post-independence government, the Anglican priest Walter Lini and his Vanuakuk Party gained nearly two-thirds of the total seats. On Espiritu Santo, officials say in Vila, Father Lini won a majority of the votes. Even today, Mr. Stevens' writ scarcely runs beyond Luganville, the main town of Santo Espiritu. In the rugged coastal villages, which have no road links with the

main town, the people are Presbyterian and almost certainly hostile to the rebellion.

Diplomatically, the French have tried to appear correct and yet avoid action. When a rebellion broke out on the island of Tanna, south of Vila, a day before the Santo revolt, M. Jean-Jacques Robert, the French Resident Commissioner, refused to intervene. It was left to the British Resident Commissioner, Andrew Stuart, to send in the 60 British riot police to restrain the 300 rebels, and regain the island.

"The Melanesians do not really want to fight, but they like a show," said one policeman. But in Espiritu Santo, Mr. Stevens has 800 hard-core supporters, armed with bows, and some 50-100 white and mixed-race settlers who have firearms. Even with the French riot police, Port Vila could only muster a force of 120; the nearest troops are the French in New Caledonia, but it is doubtful whether Paris would be prepared to use them.

Throughout the rebellion, radio links between the rebels and the French in Vila have remained open and the French institutions on the rebel island have functioned normally. French authorities in Luganville were left untouched while British officials were held hostage. To this Mr. Robert

said: "I can hardly tell my men to go and get themselves arrested."

The official line in Vila is to blockade Santo and bring the rebels to heel. But that may take until after Independence Day, especially as British interests claim there have been several flights to Santo from Noumea in New Caledonia.

Yet France faces growing unpopularity, especially in neighbouring Pacific countries. Fiji, Papua-New Guinea and the Solomon Islands all have minorities who could be stirred up too by outsiders. French warnings that action by Father Lini's supporters against Santo would be considered as civil war have not gone down well.

Before Britain lies the difficult task of persuading the French to take joint action. The peaceful courses would be to urge France to buy out some of its settlers, possibly by promising aid or to press Father Lini to make some concessions to them. But Father Lini feels he has made too many concessions without return.

If France will not act with Britain to end the rebellion, Mrs. Thatcher has to decide whether to hand over a divided country or to act alone. That might involve firing on French citizens, which could have consequences way beyond the Pacific.

16 executions amid continuing Iran disarray

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN TEHRAN

SIXTEEN more Iranians were executed in Tehran yesterday, bringing the total to 127 in three weeks since the latest phase of official blood-letting began. The executions are symptomatic of present uncertainties and coincide with a rising level of unauthorised violence.

The Tehran coroner's office says that in the month to May 21, 141 people died as a result of bullet wounds and another 31 were executed.

The Mujaheddin-e-Khalq, the powerful radical Muslim group regarded with disquiet by Ayatollah Khomeini and the orthodox clergy, is increasingly being singled out for attack. One of its members was killed when Revolutionary Guards stormed the group's south Tehran office on Monday.

Simultaneously, the intensity of political infighting between the President, Mr. Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr and the hardline Islamic Republican Party, is increasing. At stake is control over the processes of Government.

For the past two days Islamic Republic, the party newspaper, has been laying down the fundamental criteria for the man to be selected as Prime Minister, thus ruling out the possibility of a compromise candidate who

could lead a coalition Cabinet.

The party argues that the Prime Minister, as Iran's chief executive, should be "affiliated to a specific thinking group" (such as itself), should not be Western-educated or Europeanised and would have to accept fully the political leadership of the clergy.

Despite constant feuding, the newly elected Parliament has now approved the qualifications of over 180 of its members, providing a quorum for its work, which is expected to begin tomorrow.

No agreement has been reached on who is likely to be nominated by Mr. Bani-Sadr to the premiership. A poll of deputies published yesterday showed support for names such as Mr. Hassan Agha, the IRP's presidential candidate, and Hojatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, an IRP leader and Revolutionary Council member.

Meanwhile the President has been fighting back against opponents he describes as "opportunists." These men, he said in a recent interview, are a greater danger to the revolution than left-wingers. Mr. Bani-Sadr threatened to use his constitutional power to control his opponents by putting them on trial.

Fund-raising bar on black unions

By Quentin Peel in Cape Town

THE South African Government has forbidden the Federation of South African Trade Unions, the country's leading association of independent black and multi-racial unions, to raise funds outside the country.

A notice, in the Government Gazette, may also prevent the organisation from collecting money inside South Africa, and therefore effectively destroy it, union organisers say.

The Government move follows the detention of labour organisers after a spate of labour disputes involving lower-paid black workers in the food and textile industries. It also comes just before publication of the latest report from the Wiehahn Commission of Inquiry which last year recommended freedom of association for black as well as white workers, and the registration of black trade unions.

The Federation represents 12 unions. It was founded two years ago to provide legal and technical advice to member unions, the strongest of which are in the engineering, textile and motor industries.

Mr. Louis Le Grange, Minister of Police, yesterday gave warning that he would take action against anyone trying to organise a general strike to coincide with the anniversary on June 16 of the outbreak of the Soweto riots in 1976.

His warning came as the national boycott of classes by black, coloured and Indian school and university students continued and tens of thousands of black and coloured workers boycotted buses in protest at a fare increase.

Pamphlets calling for the June 16 protest have been distributed in Cape townships and police and community workers believe there could be attempts at demonstrations to commemorate the occasion.

Palestinians use bases in Jordan

By Ihsan Hjjad in Beirut

PALESTINIAN guerrillas have established bases in Jordan from which they intend to mount military operations against Israel, according to Jordanian authorities. The bases do not have the approval of the Jordanian authorities.

Guerrillas who clashed with Israeli troops on Saturday near the border with Jordan had come from such a base, the Palestinians said. Two guerrillas were killed and two wounded and, for the first time since 1970, Israeli forces crossed the border into Jordan in pursuit of the attackers.

It was in that year that King Hussein's army suppressed the guerrillas who were later expelled from his country. Lebanon has ever since been the main base of operations for the commandos and for the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Although a working relationship has been in existence between Jordan and the PLO since King Hussein recognised the group as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians in 1974, guerrilla demands that they be allowed to operate out of Jordanian territory have been rejected.

The Palestinians disclosed that the mainstream guerrilla group, Al-Fatah, took a decision to re-establish bases in Jordan at its congress in Damascus last month.

James Buxton, an EEC initiative on the Middle East will not get anywhere if the Community comes out publicly in favour of self-determination for the Palestinians and makes a positive reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Mr. Shlomo Argov, Israeli Ambassador to Britain said yesterday.

He said any such declaration would weaken the EEC as an objective impartial force in the Middle East.

Dominant Soviet role in Afghan economy

BY DAVID SATTIN IN MOSCOW

SOVIET-ASSISTED enterprises in Afghanistan were responsible last year for more than 35 per cent of the value of Afghanistan's industrial output, according to the Soviet journal, Foreign Trade.

In a description of the Soviet role in the Afghan economy, the journal said that in 1979, production rose in such Soviet-assisted projects as the Shibarban gas fields, the nitrogenous fertiliser plant in Mazar-i-Sharif and the housing construction complex and bakery and motor repair works in Kabul.

The output in these and other Soviet-assisted projects had a value of more than \$65m, which was 35 per cent of a total Afghan industrial product, valued at approximately \$180m and 60 per cent of all production in Afghanistan's state sector.

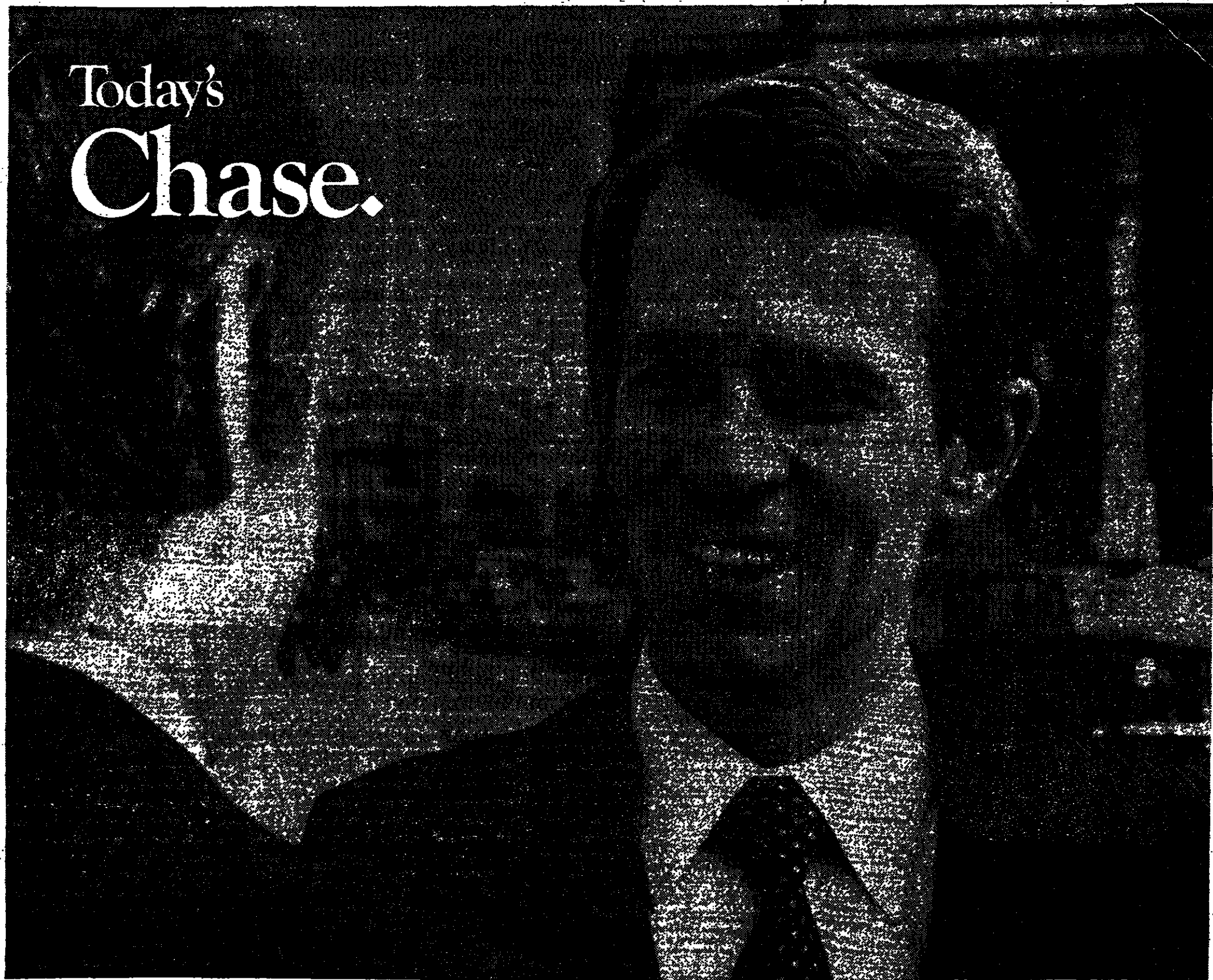
The journal said that Soviet-built power stations, which account for half Afghanistan's generating capacity, produced 450m kWh in 1979. More than 1,500 km of the 2,000 km of motorways in Afghanistan were constructed with Soviet assistance. Deliveries of tractors, combines and lorries for Afghanistan's newly established collective farms began last year under a new agreement which was

signed in August, 1979. Foreign Trade said that there are almost 130 Soviet-assisted projects either complete or under construction in Afghanistan. The Jarkand gas field was commissioned this year and work began on an auxiliary compressor station on the Khwaga-Gogerdag oilfield and on a new section of the trunk gas pipeline.

The Soviet Union is Afghanistan's largest trading partner and the two countries have agreed to increase trade by 70 per cent this year which should bring trade for the year to about \$399m. The journal said that shipments to the Soviet Union of Afghan natural gas, which this year are to reach 2.5bn cubic metres, now account for about 20 per cent of Afghan export earnings.

The Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, yesterday accused the U.S. of organising Afghan insurgent activity and said that Washington had ignored opportunities for a political solution.

A political solution to the conflict was "entirely possible," Pravda said, but the U.S. in the pursuit of its "selfish goals" did not want a "softening" but rather a "sharpening" of the existing situation.



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مركز التعامل

China to produce casings for Japan watch group

By Richard C. Hanson in Tokyo

THE SEIKO Watch group has reached agreement with China to assist in developing two factories to produce stainless steel watch cases which will be purchased by Seiko.

K. Hattori and Co., the sales arm of the Seiko group, Japan's biggest watchmaker, said the Chinese plan to provide 8m stainless steel cases over the next five years. The two plants will be located in Peking and Xi'an, Shaanxi province, using Seiko technology and machine tools.

K. Hattori last year signed a memorandum with the Chinese Light Industries Ministry agreeing to co-operate in developing the watch industry. Watch case production will be the first step in carrying out that understanding. Eventually, the Chinese may assemble whole watches with Seiko's assistance.

From Seiko's point of view, China could become a useful additional source of watch cases, which tend to be in short supply throughout the industry. The cost of Chinese cases is expected to be below those produced in other more advanced countries because of low wages. Seiko will have to provide extensive guidance, however, to assure quality levels suitable for use in Japan.

Production is expected to start up this fall. Seiko has no plans to provide capital or form a joint venture with the Chinese.

China seeks Swiss help

By Brui Ghindaria in Geneva

CHINA HAS asked Switzerland for help to develop its chemical products, machine and precision tools and watchmaking industries.

The appeal was made by a Chinese trade delegation led by Mr. An Dong, a Foreign Trade Ministry official, at the fourth session of talks here of a Chinese-Swiss joint economic commission. After the talks end on June 11 the Chinese will visit various Swiss companies.

Although Swiss trade with China is small, Switzerland is keenly interested in winning contracts to build factories in China or to modernise old ones.

The Swiss are not as wide-eyed about investment opportunities in China as the Americans or the French, but are keen to promote exports of manufactured goods.

The annual value of Swiss imports from China stood at SwFr. 90m (£23m) between 1976 and 1979. Chinese imports from Switzerland rose from SwFr. 130m in 1976 to SwFr. 197m in 1979.

Peking seeks price rise for Tokyo oil shipments

TOKYO — China has told Japanese importers it wants to raise the cost of its crude oil shipments to Japan by \$1.50 a barrel, retroactive to May 16, importers here said.

The increase, which China said reflected rises in world market prices, would boost the cost of Chinese shipments to Japan to \$34.625 a barrel, they added.

The importers said they would start price negotiations soon with China, which has agreed to ship 55m barrels of crude to Japan during the fiscal year which started last April.

In fiscal 1979, Japan imported 59m barrels of Chinese crude, or just over three per cent of its total usage.

Meanwhile, in Peking China yesterday attacked one of the basic tenets of Maoist economics—that each region must develop its own complete industrial system so as to be self-sufficient in the event of war.

The official People's Daily said that each province should be allowed to develop whatever it can do best, according to local conditions.

"The old notion that every province and region should strive to build an independent economic system for itself must be done away with," it said.

Valuable resources had been wasted by some provinces which tried, for example, to build an iron and steel industry even though the raw materials had to be shipped in from far away, it added.

No mention was made of Chairman Mao, although the criticism was clearly aimed at his policies in the last two decades before his death in 1976, Reuters.

Tough road for UK trade with Bulgaria

By Stephanie Gray

THE NUMBER of changes in Bulgarian economic legislation could cause confusion among Western concerns and leave British companies faring even worse than they already do against counterparts in other Common Market countries.

A recent trade mission to Bulgaria, organised by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, found that the country's New Economic Mechanism strategy, in force since January, seems already to have brought about a marked change in relationships between the Bulgarian producer and the buyer.

Under the strategy, planning guidelines have been reduced, profit plays a more important role than before and, in theory, foreign trading corporations are no longer in charge of principals. The legislation means foreign investors will have to forge closer ties with producers and implies a sharp shift toward the Hungarian system.

It remains unclear how another, more recent piece of legislation—the March decree on "joint associations"—will be followed in practice. But the policy, which theoretically allows a foreign partner up to 100 per cent equity in a venture, is obviously tied to the priority being given to exploitation of Bulgaria's coal resources, non-ferrous metals and minerals.

Mr. Robert Anthony of the London Chamber's East European section said there were also indications of a strong push for joint ventures in some manufacturing industries. In the long term, Bulgaria's close links with the Soviet Union could offer Western partners the advantage of access to a major market, he said.

However, Britain's chances in this respect were slim. Few UK companies were on Bulgaria's lists of possible Western partners, indicating that they were not seen by the Bulgarians to be "playing the game" properly.

Apart from the relatively strong performance of companies like ICI, Shell and Cadbury Schweppes, Britain's insignificant position in Bulgaria is underlined by comparison of its trading figures with those of West Germany, France, Austria and the U.S.

Last year British exports to Bulgaria were \$58m (£25m) compared with \$51m the year before. West Germany's exports rose to \$396m from \$358m, the French last year exported \$142m (\$94m) to Bulgaria, Austria \$95m (\$62m) and the U.S. \$56m (\$48m).

Bulgarian exports to the UK fell to \$26m from \$28m. Exports to West Germany rose to \$194m from \$158m; to France they rose to \$142m (\$94m); to Austria to \$95m (\$62m) and to the U.S. \$56m (\$48m).

Swiss report record steel exports

By John Wicks in Zurich

SWISS steelworks report growing exports of concrete reinforcement steel, which last year reached a record 164,000 tonnes. This volume, equal to 28 per cent of total production, is accounted for largely by sales to neighbouring areas of federal Germany.

The overall Swiss steel industry, whose sales rose by 20 per cent to more than SwFr. 730m (£187m) last year, views prospects for 1980 exports as "favourable," according to a study prepared by Union Bank of Switzerland, as long as there are no marked alternations in exchanger rates.

E. Germany, Mexico in trade pact

By Leslie Colitt in Berlin

EAST GERMANY and Mexico have entered a trade protocol which envisages a fourfold expansion of trade to about \$250m (£106m) a year by 1983 only weeks after the visit of Sr. Jose Lopez Portillo, Mexico's President, to West Germany. The two countries have also signed a framework agreement on economic and industrial co-operation.

A declaration of intent to expand economic co-operation was signed by Herr Gunter Mittag, East Germany's top economics official, and Sr. Jorge Castaneda, Mexican Foreign Minister, at the end of a

five-day visit by an East German economic, trade, and cultural delegation to Mexico.

Both sides said they intend to co-operate in telecommunications, metalworking and chemicals industries, the technology of direct-reduction sponge iron and the construction of fishing vessels.

Mexico and East Germany said they want to establish joint production and trading companies and to co-operate in third markets. A report in the West Germany Press that East Germany is to receive cars from the Volkswagen factory in Mexico in return

for deliveries of cranes is denied by VW headquarters in Wolfsburg.

Oil is not mentioned in the East German-Mexican accords.

The East German news agency reports that agreement has been reached on financing the industrial projects East Germany will undertake in Mexico. The two countries had trade worth some DM. 40m (£96.4m) in 1978, according to East German foreign trade statistics.

East Germany is not alone among Comecon countries interested in expanding trade and economic links with

Mexico. Poland expressed keen interest in obtaining Mexican oil during a visit to Warsaw in March by a Mexican trade mission.

The Poles would like to build merchant and fishing vessels for Mexico and to deliver equipment for complete chemical plant and mining equipment. Polish trade with Mexico last year rose to \$34m and the Poles say this figure will triple by the mid-1980s.

Poland's expectations, however, may not be fulfilled. It plans an economic mission to Mexico next year but the East Germans may have beaten it to the business.

W. Germany in machine tool deal with Poland

By Christopher Sobinski in Warsaw

METAL EXPORT, the Polish foreign trade company, has completed a series of agreements for the purchase of West German machine tools and machine tool manufacturing equipment worth DM 610m (£147m).

Under the agreements Thyssen Rheinisch Technik, working with Mexpol, will arrange deliveries to Poland from smaller West German machine tools suppliers.

Finance for the deal comes from Government guaranteed credits originally designated for a major coal gasification and chemical development project which were granted in 1977.

When the Polish Government decided to shelve the gasification scheme in its original form, the West German credits worth DM 2bn were earmarked for imports of West German machine tools, mining machinery and equipment for the chemical industry.

About 75 per cent of the DM 2bn credit, which has to be taken up by the end of this month, has already been spent by the Poles.

DM 250m went on a smaller coal gasification plant which will be supplied by Friedrich Krupp and Thyssen Bergbautechnik has also signed an agreement for deliveries of mining machinery worth DM 70m.

Franz Kirchfeld of Dusseldorf signed an agreement last week with Polimex Ceko, a Polish foreign trade company, for deliveries of chemical equipment worth DM 200m.

Under the agreement Kirchfeld will arrange deliveries from smaller West German subcontractors to Poland.

Orenstein und Koppel, a West German opencast mining machinery manufacturer, is another company which has signed agreements worth almost DM 220m under the terms of the credit.

Perfectionist stamp on Berlin standards

By Leslie Colitt

HERR HELMUT REIHLEN, director of the Deutsches Institut fuer Normung in Berlin, better known as DIN, sits in a safe chair which has five castored feet, appropriate for a man who is responsible for the country's standards, such as for electric fixtures in every German household, the buildings in which Germans work and live, and nearly every part of the cars they drive.

DIN has become the most influential of the world's national standards since its founding in 1917 and Herr Reihlen is the first to agree that it is invaluable to West Germany's export oriented industry.

Last year China signed a five-year agreement with DIN under which the entire set of some 22,000 DIN standards will be made available to the Chinese. Herr Reihlen says it was a "very nice success for us" and that the timing was important with West German industry working to corner a large share of the Chinese market.

DIN headquarters in West Berlin is but part of the association's apparatus which includes 120 standards committees and 3,900 sub-committees and working groups with 41,000 unpaid West German experts from industry, science and government agencies.

The output of this beehive of activity was 3,107 standards issued last year, which was 10 per cent less than the year before. The trend, he explains, is not to standardise "more than is necessary," especially as West Germany already has more standards than other countries.

Although West Germans occasionally mock the tendency towards perfectionism in their country, Herr Reihlen notes it is invaluable in promoting DIN's standards abroad. "Foreigners accept this perfectionism because technical regulations have to be perfect if they are to make any sense."

One of the oldest DIN standards, governing paper sizes, is perhaps the most widespread and simplest one which

is used in many countries having the metric system. DIN's paper sizes start with A0 or, one square metre in size. When this is folded the size obtained is A1, and eventually the paper can be folded to A11, which is a postage stamp.

In Germany such widely used products as paper clips, 35 millimetre film, ball-point pen cartridges, bulbs and bricks are all regulated by DIN.

In the working groups that develop DIN's standards, only one representative is impartial, the man from DIN.

Internationally, DIN's standards are the most widely circulated with a copy of every German product better for export because the country's high wages would otherwise render them uncompetitive. He believes that DIN which operates on a budget of DM 50m is an important reason why German products do so well abroad. He adds that 90 per cent of all international standards have been accepted by DIN which "means we have succeeded."

Recommendations for a specific welding seam test for example, it could make recommendations which might benefit one or another company. But Herr Reihlen notes that it rarely comes into conflict with cartel law, which stipulates that every producer should have equal chances in the market place.

"We allow every manufacturer to be represented in our groups be it Hitachi or General Motors as long as there is reciprocity. We do not on the other hand allow the Soviets to take part," Herr Reihlen remarked.

One of DIN's main functions today he explains, is to make German products better for export because the country's high wages would otherwise render them uncompetitive. He believes that DIN which operates on a budget of DM 50m is an important reason why German products do so well abroad. He adds that 90 per cent of all international standards have been accepted by DIN which "means we have succeeded."

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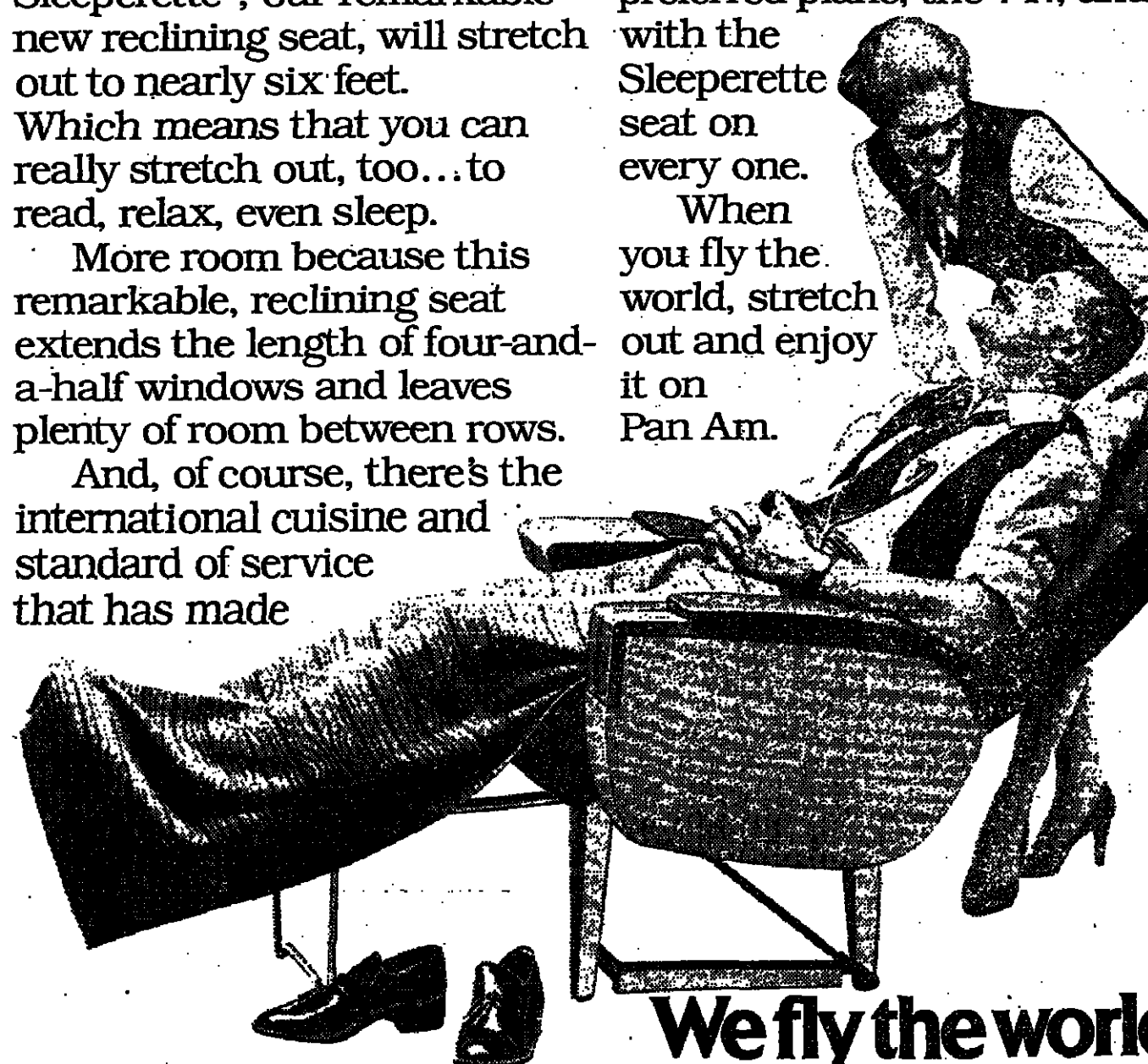
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UK NEWS

Sterling
'threat to
footwear
jobs'By Arthur Smith, Midland
Correspondent

THE FOOTWEAR industry, with 15,000 workers on short time, has warned the Government of the danger to jobs posed by the strength of sterling. Some 3,000 of the 74,000 workforce have already been made redundant this year.

Mr. Michael Fielden, director general of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, said last night: "The fact of the matter is that we are being knocked to hell by the value of the pound." The high exchange rates both hindered exports and sucked in foreign goods.

British companies had increased sales to the Common Market by 40 per cent to 3m pairs in the first quarter of this year. In the same period imports from Portugal had jumped 47 per cent to 1.36m, largely because of the strength of sterling.

The main impact of imports had been upon men's leather footwear, already suffering from a slump in home demand. At times of economic recession men tend to react in a more volatile fashion and withhold purchases," Mr. Fielden said.

Men's footwear accounts for about 28 per cent of the UK market and four out of five manufacturers in that sector are operating short-time working. But some sectors—such as women's quality shoes made in the Norwich area—are still prospering.

The industry is continuing to make representations to the Government about cheap imports, particularly from Eastern Europe. In the first quarter of this year Poland increased sales to the UK by 42 per cent to 1.25m pairs and Czechoslovakia by 50 per cent to 660,000 pairs. Mr. Fielden thought redundancies over the next few months were likely to fall to a trickle. But he warned: "If the situation does not improve in the autumn there will be more serious job losses."

The Ward White Group, of Northamptonshire, this week announced 400 redundancies among its 5,000-strong workforce. Five operations in Northampton and one in North Wales are to close. The company blamed imports and the fall in retail sales of men's footwear.

British Rail has £150m
plan for new trains

BY LYNTON MCLEIN

BRITISH RAIL will ask the Government in the next few days for permission to spend £150m on 60 advanced passenger trains for the London to Glasgow route.

The trains will operate at a maximum of 125 mph and not the 155 mph top speed of the APT prototypes.

The new trains will have only one power car compared with the two of the APT prototypes. Without the trans the long-term financial prospects of the Inter-City network will "founder," BR says.

The British Railways Board regards the trains as essential replacements for the ageing electric locomotives operating on routes from London, Euston to Birmingham, the north west and Glasgow. Some of the engines are over 20 years old and at the end of their design life.

BR expects to lose passengers—mainly to the airlines—on the London-to-Glasgow route now used by 20m people a year if

the Government does not agree to the investment. British Airways has 70 per cent of the business traffic on the route, BR has 27 per cent and the rest go by car.

But if the APT is introduced, even at the reduced 125 mph speed, BR expects to capture a maximum of 9 per cent of British Airways' London to Glasgow passengers, by doing the journey in four hours 10 minutes—50 minutes faster than the existing 100 mph electric trains.

After further engineering work on the route the journey will take exactly four hours. BR may charge premium fares for the APT.

The first of the three existing APT prototypes will enter service in October, a year later than planned, more than 13 years after research started.

The work—mainly on a mechanism for tilting the train at speed on corners—resulted in one of the prototype APTs reaching 160 mph on existing track.

The train is unlikely to reach this speed in commercial service. BR says it can see "no commercial justification for operating at a higher maximum speed." Only marginal benefits would be gained at speeds over 125 mph.

BR is required by the Railways Act 1974 to get the approval of the Minister of Transport for all investment over £3.5m.

Overall BR investment for 1980-81 was set at £277m in the Government's White Paper on expenditure published in March. BR is expected to tell officials in the Transport Department that the £150m investment in APTs will make a 20 per cent return on capital in line with the Inter-City financial targets set by Mr. Norman Fowler, Transport Minister.

Total investment in the APT is more than £35m, including tests to find out why an APT came off the rails in April. This was attributed to faulty maintenance on a wheel bogey.

Thatcher
renews
Olympics
plea

BY DAVID TONGE

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a fresh campaign to discourage British athletes from taking part in the Moscow Olympics.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, strongly denounced the Russians.

"I sometimes wonder what more the Russians have to do by way of atrocities in Afghanistan to convince our athletes that they should not go to Moscow," she said at question time.

Following reports of renewed fighting in Afghanistan, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, had issued a further call to the British Olympic Association to withdraw "even at this late stage."

Yesterday Mrs. Thatcher reinforced this plea saying: "The action of Soviet troops in Afghanistan speaks more loudly than the words of myself or the Foreign Secretary."

But Mr. Dick Palmer, general secretary of the British Olympic Association, remains unmoved. "There is no question of our not going. As far as we are concerned it is all stations go."

He also rejected Lord Carrington's claim that Russia had scored a propaganda victory with the attendance of so many countries at the games. "It was not a propaganda exercise until Lord Carrington and the Americans started. They are the ones who started the propaganda."

The British Olympic Association has agreed to go to Moscow, but the Government stresses that for the invitation to be effective the names of athletes have to be sent to the Russians. This is not due to happen until about 10 days before the Olympics start on July 19.

New chairman
for Ranks
Hovis group

MR. JOSEPH RANK is to give up the chairmanship of Ranks Hovis McDougall, the food group, at the end of January next year after 44 years with the company. He has headed the board for 11 years.

He will be succeeded as chairman by Mr. P. W. J. Reynolds, managing director and chief executive, who will remain chief executive.

Mr. Rank will become president and remain a director of the company. Mr. S. G. Metcalfe will become deputy managing director on August 1 this year and succeed Mr. Reynolds as managing director on February 1 next year. Mr. R. C. Loombe will become managing director of the cereals division in August.

Chemical imports
'will cut home
producers' sales'

BY SUE CAMERON, CHEMICALS CORRESPONDENT

THE NEXT 10 years will see a marked drop in the home sales of many UK chemicals producers because of increased imports, according to a report by Cambridge Econometrics, a consultancy group.

The report forecasts that between 1979 and 1990, British chemical companies' sales to the UK market will fall by a total of £437m—at 1975 prices. Between 1975 and 1979 sales by UK producers to their home market rose by £257m at 1975 prices.

The report says this increase represents "little growth" in sales by UK producers to the home market, "even in those sectors which have been most successful overall." It warns that this pattern will continue in the future but "with even larger" and predicts home sales of plastic materials, resins, soap and detergents, dyes and toiletries will be hardest hit.

Since 1975 some sectors of the British chemical industry have managed to hold on to their home market but others have been captured by imports. The report says that the UK market has been successful in having pushed down home sales to the home market.

Cambridge Econometrics says there are three main reasons for the erosion of home sales by UK chemical producers:

● Britain's entry to the Common Market and the abolition of duties which have given Continental companies a firm foothold in the UK market.

● The trend for chemical customers to use at least two suppliers instead of relying on one as they used to do.

● The strength of sterling which is expected to encourage a growth in chemical imports to the UK until 1983 at least.

The report says the main long term trend for chemical imports to the UK is one of "cumulative market penetration"—as importers build up a sales base their ability to penetrate further grows in proportion. It adds that another important influence on imports is what it describes as the "variety effect."

Higher income levels bring with them a demand for a much greater variety of products. The report says that the range of products demanded increases much faster than the level of demand and "no domestic producer can keep up."

But on the bright side, the report states that the "widely" demand for greater product variety should also boost British chemical exports in the longer term. An annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent is forecast for the late 1980s.

But between now and 1983 chemical exports are expected to be "sluggish" increasing at less than 3 per cent a year. The main culprit is the strong pound.

"In the short term, we estimate that a 10 per cent rise in the value of sterling loses about 7 per cent in chemicals export volume because of uncompetitive pricing," says the report. "As prices are cut or held down to restore competitiveness, the profitability in the UK worsens. The disincentive effect on exports increases to about 8 per cent."

Beaton furnishings fetch
£100,000 above forecast

CHRISTIE'S completed the sale yesterday of the contents of Sir Cecil Beaton's home, Reddish House, Broadchalke, Wiltshire. Everything was sold, and the total of £491,571 was £100,000 above expectations.

The top price yesterday was £20,000, plus 11.5 per cent buyer's premium and VAT, paid for a painting by Augustus John of his wife Dorella. This was an auction record for a John, doubling the previous best, achieved by Christie's in 1978.

A rose given to Beaton by Greta Garbo in 1932, which he kept pressed between the leaves of his diary, was bought by a New Zealand photographer for £750. Other high prices were £7,500 for *The White Garden*—Moonlight, painted in 1910 by Henri le Sidaner; £8,000 for a pair of bronze lamps by Giacometti; £7,500 for an English School view of Ashcombe, in Wiltshire, painted in around 1770; and £5,000 for another lamp by Giacometti.

A set of four George III silver wine labels sold at Bonham's yesterday for £1,000, which is believed to be the highest ever auction price for wine labels. At Robson Lowe's a sudden increase in interest in Chinese stamps was revealed. Prices in many cases were three or four times what was expected. A Manchuria collection sold for £900 against the £275 forecast. Another made £500 compared with the £150 estimate.

Tough line
urged on
council
spending

By Robin Farley

THE PRIME MINISTER has decided that a "tough" stand must be taken against local authority overspending this year and is understood to have told Mr. Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, to be more aggressive.

A new statement about overspending is thought to be imminent from Mr. Heseltine. This could explain the department's delay in sending out a circular asking all local authorities to re-examine their budgets for 1980-81, and avoid the risk of overspending by considering further pruning. The first draft of the circular surprised local authority leaders by its restrained tone.

Local authorities now seem to be overspending their 1980-81 budgets by 5.6 per cent, although when revenue contributions to capital are included this figure reduces to 3.7 per cent, within the normal margins for this stage of the financial year. This is usually absorbed during the rest of the year, but Mr. Heseltine's statement was great enough to warrant a call for revised budgets.

TARGETS
But Mrs. Thatcher is understood to have told him that councils must be dealt with more firmly.

It is not clear if this means a stronger circular, perhaps containing prescribed targets. It could also mean that the list of 10 to 20 worst overspenders in 1980-81 may be penalised more severely than Mr. Heseltine might have been intending.

Environment Department officials have been increasingly concerned that penalties this year should not be too stiff, in case they cause exceptionally large rate increases next year to make up the grant forfeited. Such high rate rises would make the implementation of the new block grant system of rate support even more difficult than it is already likely to be.

The question of penalties has become controversial with a growing feeling that different statistics and the significant element of rough justice entailed might make it better to abandon the idea, however politically committed to it the Government was.

Furniture
margins cut

FURNITURE manufacturers are trimming profit margins and so are many retailers in an attempt to stimulate flagging sales. Twenty per cent price reductions on good quality furniture are not exceptional.

The crisis now facing the industry is "the worst for many years," according to Mr. Jerrold Nathan, chairman of the Furniture Information Council, which represents manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

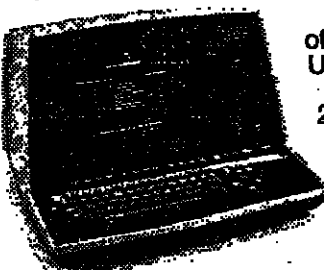
Deliveries to the trade in the first quarter of this year were over 15 per cent less than in the same period of 1979 and orders in hand are at their lowest since 1975.

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Huge shortfall feared in mortgage finance

BY MICHAEL CASSELL

BUILDING SOCIETIES could face a "gigantic" shortfall in the level of funds required to meet future mortgage demand, according to Mr. Ralph Stow, immediate past chairman of the Building Societies Association.

Mr. Stow, managing director of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, was addressing delegates to a London conference on the housing market in the next decade.

He said the stimulus to home ownership in the current Housing Bill was "most welcome," but providing the necessary finance could be a problem if interest rates remained at present levels for much longer.

The shortfall in finance against the likely demand for mortgage funds could rise as high as £400m if the flow of money into societies did not soon substantially improve.

He pointed out that in the first four months of this year, gross advances by the societies totalled £2,660m. Projected for the year as a whole this gave more than £80m — well below the probable demand of £110m estimated by a recent working party on housing finance, of

which he was chairman.

New evidence suggests, however, that this estimate may be too high, because the home loans market has been weakened by record interest rates.

Mr. Stow said his forecast took into account not only the level of traditional mortgage demand but also the likelihood that societies would be expected to provide finance for tenants buying council houses and housing association properties.

The societies were also expected to maintain a £400m a year contribution under the local authorities' support scheme.

"The reason why we are at present unable to meet this demand is fully recognised by the Prime Minister and the Government—it is because we are operating an interest rate structure that is relatively uncompetitive and below current market levels."

Mr. John Stanley, Housing and Construction Minister, told the conference building societies should lend more money on "rundown" properties in inner cities.

"I think there has been a legitimate debate as to whether societies may have been too cautious in the past in their lending policies towards certain types of house, and in certain areas of the older towns and cities," he said.

"Lending on older houses, on conversions, and in the less favoured parts of our cities, can make a very important contribution not only to the revival of rundown areas, but also in meeting the demand for home ownership among those for whom the cheapest houses will very probably be the only houses they can afford."

Mr. Stanley said he recognised that the societies' lending practices had changed. Ten years ago 17 per cent of all advances by building societies were on pre-1919 property. Advances on similar homes totalled 25 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Mr. Stanley said if home ownership continued to grow at its present level, home owners would number 60 per cent by 1990 instead of the present 54 per cent.

Attack on 'waste of tennis resources'

BRITAIN'S TENNIS authorities have been criticised for wasting resources, neglecting the game at its basic level and becoming bogged down in a bureaucratic tangle dominated by "elderly people."

Wimbledon should make a greater contribution to the game and less money should be spent on Britain's few star players if the decline of tennis in this country is to be halted, says a report published yesterday.

The study of tennis organisation was ordered two years ago by the then Minister for Sport Mr. Dennis Howell and headed by Mr. John Smith, chairman of Football League champions Liverpool.

The Lawn Tennis Association, the All England Lawn Tennis Ground and the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club have resources of more than £2m, but the money is not spent to the game's benefit, says the report.

"Too high a proportion of the LTA's resources have been poured into the top tier of lawn tennis. If it was thought finance was a major problem evidence indicates otherwise. At local level it is clear that clubs have experienced great hardship, yet have received meagre support from the authorities."

Gareth Griffiths on the slump in the chocolate industry VAT bites into confectionery sales

THE CHOCOLATE and confectionery industry, in many ways one of the barometers of the economic climate, is making redundant or putting on short time a considerable part of its 70,000 workforce. A high proportion are women, working mainly part-time.

There are about 200 companies—150 of them members of the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance—but the industry is effectively dominated by the Big Three, Cadbury Schweppes, Rowntree Mackintosh and Mars.

Rowntree Mackintosh has introduced short-time working for about half its 14,000 workforce this year and Cadbury is to make redundant 700 workers at Bourneville, Birmingham.

George Bassett is closing its Glasgow operation with the loss of 180 jobs.

The public has shown marked resistance to paying higher prices for chocolate and confectionery since the Chancellor increased VAT from 3 per cent to 15 per cent last June. Confectionery sales fell 6 per cent in the last six months of 1979. After a poor Christmas the downward trend has continued.

Mr. Robert Wadsworth, president of the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, said confectionery spending rose 12.5 per cent in 1978 to £1,600m, but volume of sales fell about 3 per cent.

Confectionery companies say

their products are extremely price sensitive. The industry believes there can be no real volume growth in the home market while VAT remains at its present rate.

The VAT increase came as a shock to the industry. Its analysts are unanimous in saying that it is the main reason for the sales fall-off. A growth of about 0.5 per cent a year had been forecast if VAT remained at 8 per cent.

For the previous two-and-a-half years, chocolate and confectionery sales had been doing relatively well. The squeeze on personal income in the mid-1970s had seen a fall in sales overall, but from a low of 740,000 tonnes in 1975 UK manufacturers' sales rose to 819,000 tonnes in 1978. In the first six months of 1979 volume sales increased by about 6 per cent.

In the past, consumers switched from chocolate to sugar confectionery goods in an economic recession. In the present fall off, chocolate sales have declined, particularly for moulded chocolate bars, but the sugar confectionery industry appears to have suffered even more.

Consumers are now more aware of other snack food available—in part because of advertising. Foods such as crisps carry zero VAT rating and confectionery's relatively

high price has been a major factor.

Children, who have about a third of confectionery purchasing power, are discriminating buyers. A packet of crisps at 10p seems to offer better value than chocolate bars at 21p to 25p.

The buoyant market of the late 1970s led to far greater competition in the industry. The traditional Quaker-dominated sector has become concerned with aggressive marketing and development of brand loyalties.

Cadbury Schweppes, Rowntree Mackintosh and Mars control more than 80 per cent of the British market. Competition has been particularly tight in the cereal coated range, viewed as the growth product of the 1980s. Banjo, Twix, Montego, Trio, Drifter and Kit Kat all compete for their share of consumers' cash.

Cereal centred chocolate bars appear the more resilient sector. In the first four months of the year manufacturers' sales of the other sectors fell by 11.6 per cent.

The fall perhaps exaggerates the true position because of retailers' destocking.

The strong state of the pound has had a mixed effect. Exports fell marginally from £216m in 1978 to £209m.

The major companies have become increasingly involved in overseas acquisitions. This has

led to cross trading between subsidiaries. Rowntree Mackintosh has concentrated in Europe, while Cadbury Schweppes has chosen the more strongly organised overseas sales, including those from its overseas companies, were £374m. Total income was £601m.

The decline in cocoa commodity prices from £1,426 a tonne in January to £1,011 a tonne now indicates the generally flat state of the world confectionery market. The UK market seems to have shown a more marked decline than elsewhere.

UK consumption of cocoa beans showed a fall of 22.6 per cent in the third quarter of last year, and of 10.9 per cent in the fourth quarter, against the same periods in 1978. In the first three months of this year consumption fell by 12.4 per cent.

Cocoa butter, the other main ingredient for the chocolate industry, has not shown as large a fall. But for both products it will take several months for reduced raw material prices to work through to shop prices.

The Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance remains uncertain about when there will be an upturn in the industry. Rowntree Mackintosh said last night is expected sales during the next six months would be better than the same period last year.

New AA motor-cycle insurance

BY ERIC SHORT

MOTORCYCLISTS with accident-free records will be able to save up to half their insurance premiums in a new policy offered by Automobile Association Insurance Services.

In contrast with conventional motor-cycle insurance, which is designed to meet the costs of damage to the machine and the liability towards other parties involved in an accident, the AA's policy aims to provide a "no-claims" cover more cheaply and

to extend the scope of the cover. It offers a no claims discount of up to 40 per cent, instead of the usual 10 to 20 per cent, for four years free of claims. Alternatively, the policy may be arranged to provide free additional cover for any other motor-cycles owned by the policyholder.

Another 10 per cent of the premium may be saved if the motor-cyclist accepts double the normal damage "excess": the

first part of the claim paid by the policyholder.

The policy is available to the general public, but AA members can under this scheme receive up to £50 for damage to helmets or clothing after an accident. A small extra premium permits AA members with hire-purchase commitments to claim up to £50 a month, up to £250, to meet repayments after an accident that leaves them unable to work.

Benefit

The game could benefit by an extra £500,000 if Wimbledon went fully commercial, the report suggests. More money would come in, in line with other European countries, the present 30p affiliation fee paid to the LTA by clubs was raised to £5 a year for adults and £2 for juniors.

Wimbledon, which refused the inquiry access to last year's accounts, was criticised for its complicated financial structure, and, with the LTA, blamed for the poor state of the game on a local level.

Tennis money would be better spent on improved facilities, club loans, and expansion of coaching and training for all players at all levels. A director of coaching, who would restructure the set-up, was desirable.

Calling for the appointment of one small committee to take over day-to-day management, and a chief executive, the report says: "An amateur administration has ensured an amateur approach to the guidance and direction of the game. The half-hearted attempt to 'professionalise' the management of the LTA shows little progress."

Clothing manufacturer to close third plant

BY LISA WOOD

SILHOUETTE, THE women's fashionwear manufacturer, yesterday said it was closing its flagging export performance. Pitman said more than half the scientific and mathematical typesetting done by Universities Press was for export, mainly to the U.S.

Lucas Elliott in Cannock

The factory will be the fourth the company has closed or sold in the past year, and the total workforce will have been cut from 1,100 to 400.

Factories at Market Drayton and Telford were closed last year and that at Chirk was sold. Last year, Silhouette was taken over in a £3m deal by Pawns, the Leeds-based clothing manufacturing group.

Further redundancies in the clothing industry have been announced by the Meridian Group, part of Courtaulds Knitwear.

The group's leisure-wear factory at Kegworth, Leicestershire, is to close this month with 66 redundancies. A second factory at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, is also to close with about 80 redundancies.

In Northern Ireland, 96 workers at Universities Press,

the Belfast printing subsidiary of Pitman, are to lose their jobs because of the company's flagging export performance.

Pitman said more than half the scientific and mathematical typesetting done by Universities Press was for export, mainly to the U.S.

Lucas Elliott in Cannock

men were to go on short-time working.

MK Electric, a subsidiary of MK Electric Holdings, is to revert to normal working from July 7 at all its factories.

The company, which has been working a four-day week since January, says its stocks have

now been significantly reduced.

Robinson Willey, manufacturers of gas fires and wall heaters at Old Swan, Liverpool, has given 30-day redundancy notices to 80 of its production and office staff. The notices follow 11 weeks of short-time working because of a fall in orders.

There was a danger, he said, that in the battle to conquer inflation the long-term future of the industry was being placed in jeopardy.

Mr. Regan's remarks follow a meeting earlier this week between the industry and the Prime Minister. He said the Government had the ability and the duty to give textiles some relief.

He cited the burden placed on the UK industry by higher energy, environmental and local authority costs than overseas competitors paid. He drew attention to what he claimed was inefficient enforcement of the EEC's textile-import policy, and to the trade barriers imposed in a number of overseas markets.

Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, speaking at the meeting, reiterated Mrs. Thatcher's pledge to renegotiate the GATT multi-fibre arrangement on the most advantageous terms.

He promised that the Government would use EEC procedures as effectively as it could,

Organic waste 'could provide energy'

BY MARTIN DICKSON, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

FUEL FROM organic wastes could eventually contribute the equivalent of 30m tonnes of coal a year to the UK's energy needs, according to the Department of Energy. This represents about 8 per cent of Britain's energy demand last year.

The figures were given in a newsletter on renewable energy published by the Ministry yesterday. But it said technical feasibility and the cost of conversion processes had still to be established.

Interest in so-called biofuels

is developing fast in many countries, notably Brazil, Canada and the U.S. Organic wastes are a negligible contributor to Britain's energy needs.

The Department said Britain's biofuel could come from two types of material: organic wastes produced in homes, industry and agriculture, and energy crops grown on land not used for food or timber.

Studies suggested animal wastes now available could produce biogas equivalent to 4m

tonnes of coal a year through a microbiological process which made a gas containing about 70 per cent methane and 30 per cent carbon dioxide, with traces of hydrogen sulphide.

With Ministry support, two companies—Howard Harvesters and Hanworthy Engineering—were developing and testing equipment for use on farms. Both would initially handle pig slurry — the most polluting animal waste and a severe problem on intensive pig farms.

Economic policies 'jeopardising' textiles

BY RHYS DAVID, TEXTILES CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST 10 per cent of total employment in Britain's textile industry had been lost in the past 12 months and mill-closures were running at the rate of one a week, Mr. Leonard Regan, president of the British Textile Confederation, said in London yesterday.

Mr. Regan, speaking at the BTC annual meeting, warned of the double pressures facing the industry, from Government economic policies and continuing high levels of import penetration.

There was a danger, he said, that in the battle to conquer inflation the long-term future of the industry was being placed in jeopardy.

Mr. Regan's remarks follow a meeting earlier this week between the industry and the Prime Minister. He said the Government had the ability and the duty to give textiles some relief.

He cited the burden placed on the UK industry by higher energy, environmental and local authority costs than overseas

competitors paid. He drew attention to what he claimed was inefficient enforcement of the EEC's textile-import policy, and to the trade barriers imposed in a number of overseas markets.

Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary, speaking at the meeting, reiterated Mrs. Thatcher's pledge to renegotiate the GATT multi-fibre arrangement on the most advantageous terms.

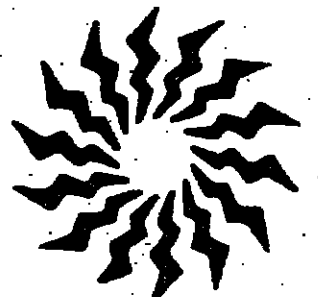
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Cost of safety tests holding up drugs

MEDICINES which could treat rare diseases are being withheld from the market because pharmaceutical companies can not afford the cost of safety evaluation for drugs with limited sales potential.

A report from the Office of Health Economics, think tank of the British drug industry, says the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the Government's watchdog on safety of drugs, refuses to permit "short cuts" for such drugs.

The report on the balance between benefit and safety in pharmaceutical innovation says that when only a few patients require the medicine it can be prepared in a hospital laboratory, and used without a product licence. But it warns that the trend must be to withhold new medicines from growing numbers of patients because of the rising cost of demonstrating safety.

No one was able to say where the right balance between benefit and risk should be struck "largely because of the conceptual difficulty in understanding the risk-benefit equation."

One attempt made by the think tank to canvass the opinions of prescribing doctors on what was an acceptable level of risk, and what delay to new medicines could be suffered to achieve it, had to be abandoned. Those who took part in preliminary interviews said the problem appeared to be unquantifiable.

"It seems that the regulatory bodies themselves and the civil servants who staff them face the same dilemma as practising doctors. They simply do not know how much information to ask for, and they are unable to balance the time and the cost of gathering the information against the uncertain degree of increased safety to which it might contribute."

The report says the innovating company itself had the strongest incentive to ensure the safety of its new medicines. "At the least, it is commercially disastrous to introduce an unsafe medicine." It also points out that the new safety tests are themselves invariably devised by the industry, and not by the regulatory bodies.

Regulatory policies based on the assumption that industrialists will act recklessly were "just as misguided as those which suppose the Government administrators and advisers have nothing but altruistic motives."

By being unnecessarily bureaucratic and cautious, regulatory bodies could do at least as much harm as the over-enthusiastic industrial innovator, the report says. It also points out that the new safety tests are themselves invariably devised by the industry and not by the regulatory bodies.

The report urges a centrally financed scheme under the Health Service to evaluate claims for compensation from those people who believe they have been harmed by a drug. Such a scheme would pay compensation without regard to the financial strength of the manufacturer involved. The scheme would be reimbursed by the manufacturer if he was shown to have been negligent.

A question of balance: the benefits and risks of pharmaceutical innovation. Office of Health Economics, 182 Regent Street, London W1R 6DD. £1.50.

Ray Perman looks at the latest efforts to woo foreign investors

Tax reductions—Britain's new attraction

THE MEN and women responsible for enticing foreign companies to the UK, the Department of Industry's "Invest in Britain" Bureau, have been arming themselves with a new weapon—a better understanding of the British tax system.

The move arises because many overseas investors believe the UK to be prohibitively expensive, with a standard rate of corporation tax of 52 per cent compared with only 10 per cent for foreign companies in the Irish Republic.

The Republic is the UK's main rival for foreign investment.

In reality, however, very few manufacturing companies in Britain pay the full rate.

By taking advantage of various allowances that are available to reduce taxable profits—such as stock relief and capital investment allowances—the rate can be cut to an average of less than 20 per cent.

The bureau now realises that if it can get this message across, foreign companies might begin to look more favourably on the UK. So it has asked the Inland Revenue to organise seminars for its staff to tell them what the situation is. One such tutorial has taken place, more may follow.

Nippon Electric, the Japanese group, is likely to be one of the bureau's first targets with its new-found knowledge.

Nippon is looking for a European site for a £20m micro-processor factory. It has narrowed its choice to Dublin and Livingston, new town in Scotland, and has already been given a final offer in terms of cash grants from the Irish. It is now waiting to see if the UK can beat it.

Nippon wants to make up its mind before the end of July, so a team from Britain is likely to visit Japan soon.

What the Japanese are told will of course be kept secret. But a fair indication of the sort of offer which could be made has come from the Scottish Development Agency.

The agency is some way ahead of the bureau and has already mounted the first of a series of tax seminars in the U.S. aimed at convincing

WESTMINSTER ELECTRONICS—TAX PAYABLE
(All amounts in £'000)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Pre-tax profit	786	1,048	1,346	1,557	1,900	4,637
Book depreciation	56	72	87	128	144	467
Deduction expenses	10	11	12	13	14	66
Capital allowances	(1,032)	(232)	(632)	(264)	(264)	(2,424)
Relief for increased inventories	(167)	(200)	(240)	(288)	(346)	(1,241)
Taxable profit/(loss)	(347)	699	573	1,146	1,448	3,519
Tax losses E/F	—	(347)	—	—	—	—
Tax at 52 per cent	—	183	298	596	753	1,830
Effective cumulative tax rate	Nil	10%	15%	23%	28%	—

American companies that the UK tax system is not as frightening as it appears.

It has also produced—as part of its evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Scottish Affairs which is investigating foreign investment—a model to show what levels of tax a typical electronics company coming to Britain might expect to pay.

The model is based on a fictional firm called Westminster Electronics, but the type of investment, the manufacture of microchip-based instruments, is similar to that planned by Nippon.

It assumes initial capital investment of £2m, made up in equal parts of equity, loan from the parent group and short and long-term borrowing in the UK.

British Government assistance would comprise regional development grants of 20 per cent on plant and equipment, and selective financial assistance under the 1972 Industry Act.

It is also assumed that sales will be \$5m in the first year, rising by 20 per cent a year and that pre-tax profit before interest will average 18 per cent of sales.

These may seem high figures to many British manufacturers, but they are conservative by the standards of the electronics industry.

The model shows how, by judicious use of the various allowances available, the company can pay a corporation tax at all in its first year. This will rise to 10 per cent in the second year and only slowly in successive years. At the end of five years the cumulative tax paid will only be 28 per cent.

On that basis, Westminster Electronics would have paid back its initial investment of £2m in little more than three years, and its return on capital would be about 48 per cent—a figure that many U.S. companies already operating in Scotland would consider rather low.

The submission goes on to explain how the relaxation of exchange controls in the UK has made international financing easier for foreign companies.

Call for fuel consumption targets to be set

BY LYNTON McLAINE

MAXIMUM FUEL consumption standards for different classes of vehicle should be set and achieved by specified dates, Mr. Stuart Mustow, the new president of the Institution of Municipal Engineers, told delegates at the annual conference of the institution in Bournemouth yesterday.

He said it was generally accepted in the motor industry that improved design could substantially cut the fuel consumption of lorries and cars.

But he questioned whether the industry was doing enough. "Positive action" was needed to set out new fuel consumption standards to enable control over fuel-use, to be shared more equally between the consumer and the motor manufacturer.

However, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said after his speech that the British motor industry was committed to a 10 per cent cut in consumption for cars between 1979 and 1985.

Redifon wins £3m flight simulator order

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

BRITISH AIRWAYS Helicopters, a subsidiary of British Airways, has placed a £3m contract with Redifon Simulation of Crawley, Sussex, for the world's first flight simulator for the Boeing Chinook commercial helicopter.

British Airways has already ordered six long range Chinooks. The first three are due to be delivered in mid-1981.

Car identification scheme

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

A PROJECT was launched yesterday to recruit operators for a nationwide vehicle identification scheme. Its backers say it could have a big effect on car thefts in the UK—currently running at one every two minutes.

Protecar, founded by Birmingham property developer Mr. John Harris, plans a network of 50 franchises to engrave vehicle registration numbers on the window glass of new and secondhand cars at £10 a time.

A central computer record will provide ownership checks—an improvement on the Department of Transport's computer centre at Swansea, whose records are on easily transferred number plates.

The idea of engraving window glass—covering the windscreen and all side and rear windows—is 12 years old. But only recently have the problems been overcome of either glass, or engraving so shallowly that the marks may be polished out.

Protecar says 16 of the available franchises have already been taken up. It plans 30 by the end of this year.

Union leader hits at 'dishonesty' of anti-nuclear industry

A STRONG attack on the "anti-nuclear industry's intellectual dishonesty" has been made by Mr. John Lyons, general secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers Association, writes David Fishlock.

Mr. Lyons criticises its "double standards and systematic misrepresentation of facts and issues."

Writing in his union's journal Mr. Lyons says there is no doubt the anti-nuclear movement is having some success in influencing public opinion.

"If it should succeed in persuading public opinion to turn against nuclear power, then the fact that false arguments had been used would be irrelevant."

"It would create a major economic and political crisis for this country and any other in which it was successful."

Mr. Lyons warns his members that they are "no longer dealing simply with a critical and healthy environmental movement, genuinely concerned about environmental issues." They are dealing with an essentially political movement "with much wider aims and ambitions, and many fewer scruples about how it proceeds."

The association represents the engineers, scientists and managers who run Britain's electricity supply. Mr. Lyons says his union supports nuclear power in a balanced energy programme so long as it remains safe and socially acceptable.

"We know for ourselves how outstanding is its safety record, and that it provides a secure and economic source of energy for this country's population for many decades to come."

The integrity and competence of everyone in the nuclear industry is being questioned, he says. There are allegations of fiddling and figures hiding information from the public, covering up "incidents" working for big corporations such as Westinghouse, or "generally engaged in a systematic fraud against the people."

If the industry admitted a defect it had discovered and was dealing with, it was accused of incompetence for not having done it earlier. If it did not report every defect, it was accused of hiding information.

Seventh Boeing for Air Europe

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

AIR EUROPE, the UK holiday airline set up last year, has ordered its seventh Boeing 737 twin-engine short-range jet airliner.

Worth £7m, it brings the company's investment in jets to over £42m. The aircraft is due for delivery in the spring of 1982.

Air Europe, which recorded a pre-tax profit of over £1m in its first financial year, will carry 350,000 holiday-makers this year from seven British airports to European resorts.

The airline is already operating five Boeing 737s, and takes delivery of its sixth next year.

CONTRACTS

£3.4m computer office block

Ferranti has awarded contracts totalling £3.4m for the design and construction of an office block and computer room at Ty Coch, Cwmbran, Gwent. Main contractor for the project is JOHN LANE CONSTRUCTION.

This building is the first of three stages in the construction of a design development, programming and pre-production unit. Work has started and should be completed by October 1981. Stage 1 will cover an area of 15,000 square feet. Stage 2 a further 30,000 square feet and Stage 3, 50,000 square feet. These stages should be completed by the end of 1983 and mid-1985 respectively.

Aberdeen-based corrosion engineers, RAMCO OILFIELD AND MARINE SERVICES has two pipeline coating contracts, worth £1m. The first section runs from Aberdeen to Arbroath and the second from Arbroath to North Forth. The contracts have been awarded by Nacop and Mannesmann (Engineers and Contractors), who are two of the three main contractors laying the land sections for the first phase of the British Gas 42-inch Forth feeder line. Ramco's involvement is in the specialised coating of the pipeline girth welds with fusion-bonded epoxy powder.

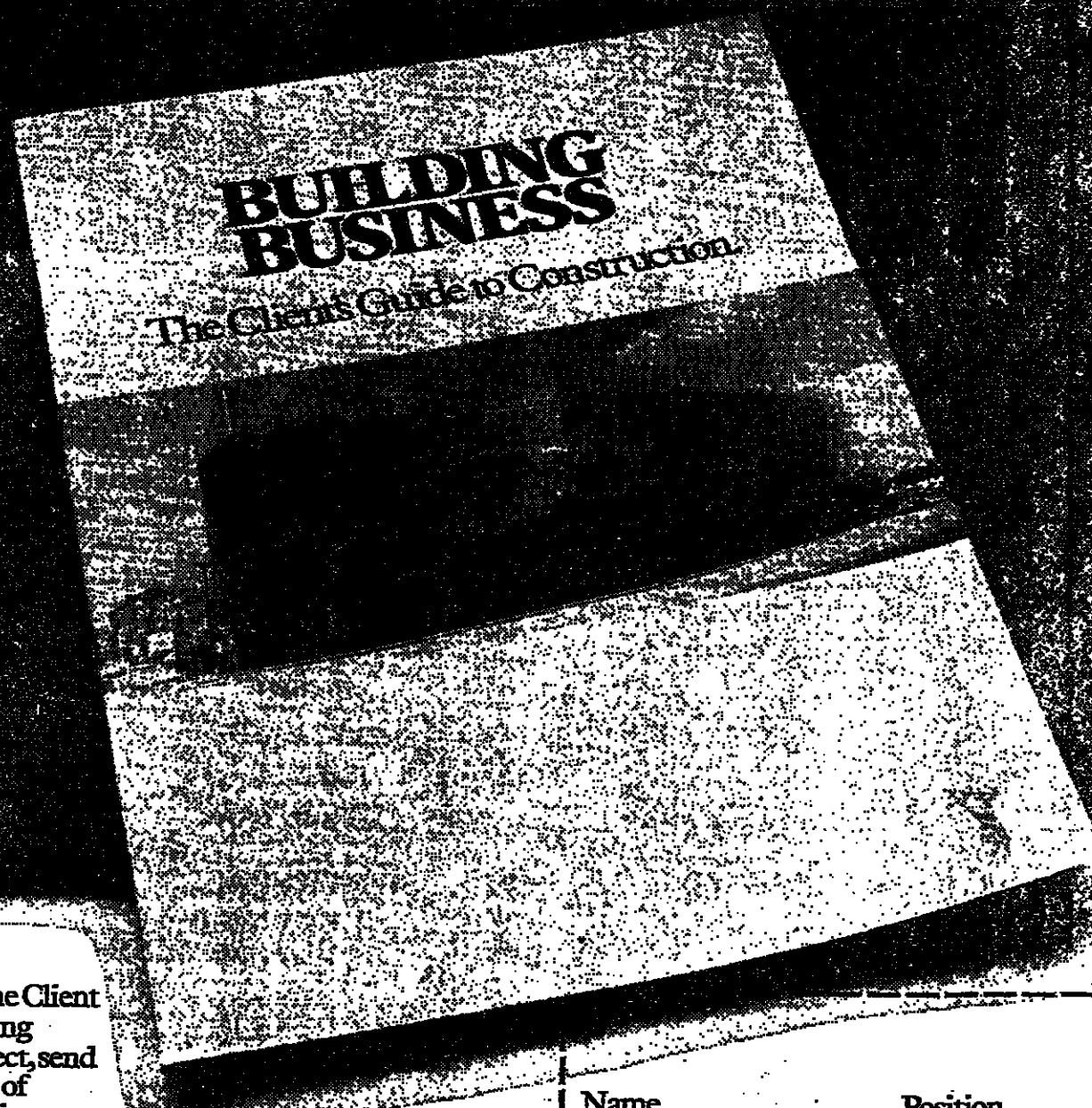
Low-cost equipment for measuring an airliner's ground speed has been ordered by British Airways. Worth nearly £200,000, the order is for the AD 660 doppler velocity sensor, supplied by MARCONI AVIONICS (a GEC-Marconi Electronics company). British Airways will equip its whole fleet of new Boeing 737 aircraft with the AD 660, which will provide speed of turn and drift information directly to the pilot and additionally, for special fuel economy system being fitted to the 737.

Contracts, worth nearly £400,000, have been won by the Bradford-based major projects division of N. G. BAILEY AND CO. for the heating and fire detection system of Kilroot power station, Northern Ireland, and Heysham and Hartlepool power stations.

FATA, Milton Keynes, a member of Babcock International group, has been awarded a £580,000 contract for the supply of an overhead power and free conveyor system at J. C. Bamford Excavators factory at Rochester, Staffs.

TEDDINGTON INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, Sunbury-on-Thames, has an order worth about £250,000 from Lightfoot Refrigeration Co. for nine sets of its company's "System 5" control and surveillance systems. The equipment is to be fitted on three of the new Type 42 destroyers in which it will be used for sequential control and automatic watchkeeping duties for air conditioning plant.

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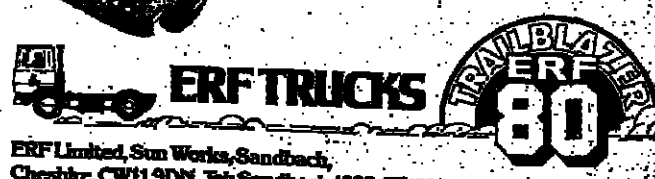
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Blow to BR's productivity

By Philip Bassett, Labour Staff

BRITISH RAIL'S hopes of securing major improvements in efficiency this year because of its recent 20 per cent pay settlement were dealt a serious blow yesterday. It came from the small but powerful Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

Mr. Bill Ronskley, ASLEF president, opening the union's annual conference in Sheffield, said ASLEF's agreement to six key points of the BR board's productivity proposals was "unlikely".

Mr. Ronskley made clear he did not wish to prejudice the conference's decision on the proposals. But he told delegates: "Colleagues, this is not productivity—it's slavery!"

The union is still set to take part in the series of discussions on productivity between the board and the three railway unions. The discussions were set up following the pay settlement.

The terms of the settlement laid down a deadline of May 31 for a time-table on productivity discussions to be drawn up. The unions complied with that, and the first of a series of 10 meetings was set for June 24. Any decision the ASLEF conference might take in line with Mr. Ronskley's predictions could alter that.

Mr. Ronskley objected to those points in BR's proposals which would end all double-manning on trains, daily

mileage restrictions, the system of mileage payments, and the line of promotion for footplate staff, increase rostering of shifts of four hours to 12 hours, and end local committees' right to examine and agree on work diagrams before these were effected.

He said train-drivers' working conditions were already "virtually unbearable" and were worsening. These proposals would allow drivers to be switched from train to train, doing different jobs, without any overtime or mileage.

He said the board's decision to submit its productivity proposals to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's inquiry into the London and South-

Eastern rail service was against the present negotiating agreement.

"There is a strong possibility that the action of the BR board may be responsible for serious difficulties in our industry in the not too distant future," he said.

The union remained opposed to discussing the board's productivity proposals throughout the recent pay negotiations but managed to agree at the end of the talks.

Mr. Ronskley said the Labour Party should commit the next Labour Government now to withdrawing from the EEC, and he supported the Left-wing drive for greater accountability in the party.

Power progress doubt

By John Lloyd, Labour Correspondent

THE OUTCOME of talks aimed at solving the inter-union dispute at the Isle of Grain power station site remained unclear last night, as preparations continue to call out insulation engineers from sites and power stations up and down the country next week.

Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, met Mr. Denis Lomer, the Central Electricity Generating Board member for construction and Mr. Ron Burbridge, the CEB's director of projects, on Monday for informal talks. Neither side has since commented on the talks.

Mr. Frank Earl, the General and Municipal Workers Union's national officer, yesterday told regional officers of plans to pull out the union's 500 insulation engineers, or ladders from CEB construction sites and power stations on Monday if the dispute is not settled.

It is thought likely pressure is now being exerted on the CEB to accept a £4.68 an hour maximum for the ladders, in common with other craft workers.

TUC-CBI talks likely

By John Lloyd, Labour Correspondent

THE TUC is likely to agree to talks with the CBI covering pay, productivity and social and economic issues.

The invitation to open discussions, made by Sir Raymond Pennock, CBI chairman, at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council last month, will be considered at a meeting of the TUC's economic committee today.

Union leaders on the economic committee stressed yesterday bilateral talks between the two organisations could take place only if they covered social and economic issues as well as pay and productivity.

These would include unemployment, investment, imports and general employment policy. The CBI indicated yesterday that it would be prepared to

see social issues discussed, since "they would be inevitably dragged in."

Sir Raymond's line is that there is a direct link between low wage increases and a low level of inflation. The alternative would be high wage demands, uncompetitive companies and large-scale job losses.

The CBI's initiative is likely to receive a positive—if grudging—response from union leaders today, since many believe "every other forum for discussion now seems to be falling apart."

Left-wingers on the committee are expected to argue that the unions will receive little advantage from talking to the CBI while it remains wedded to the Government's economic

strategy. But the consensus is expected to show a willingness to test the existence of possible common ground.

The committee will also discuss a document on the TUC's Day of Action on May 14, and review future initiatives. Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union and a committee member, was scathing about the Day of Action, and can expect a rough ride from his colleagues.

Several other committee members were privately sceptical of its wisdom, though the majority believe it was more successful than reports indicated. But there is still some doubt about future activities.

Finniston 'failure on pay'

By Philip Bassett, Labour Staff

THE FINNISTON inquiry into the engineering profession sidestepped the crucial question of pay which is at the root of the profession's lack of status, says TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering workers' union.

The union has told the Department of Industry the inquiry failed to deal "at all adequately" with the problem of engineers' pay despite the fact that this was the majority of issues concerned the majority of qualified engineers.

The report made no concrete proposals on pay even though mechanical engineers ranked only 12th in the league table of average earnings.

The union generally welcomes the report, but is doubtful about some of its recommendations which it says may merely create a new bureaucracy no more able to secure radical changes than previous proposals.

Nalco 'expects 13% offer'

By Nick Garnett, Labour Staff

LEADERS OF the 535,000 local authority workers are likely to expect an offer of no more than 12 or 13 per cent in this year's wage negotiations.

Many authorities have been pressing for a settlement below these figures, and see have indicated that they have insufficient money to exceed a relatively small single figure deal.

The employers' secretariat has just completed a survey of local authority attitudes to this year's wage talks.

This is understood to have resulted in suggestions for settlement targets ranging from a few per cent to about 15 per cent. The settlement is due on July 1.

Officials of the National and Local Government Officers Association, which represents the majority of town hall staff, think they may be faced with calling some form of industrial action this year. They also believe there is some prospect that employers may be tempted to make at least an initial offer within single figures.

The union is seeking a minimum 20 per cent rise, a 35 hour week, a £70 minimum adult rate, and extra holidays.

It has been given a very firm impression that there is almost no sympathy among the authorities for a reduction in hours or the £70 minimum rate. There

is more hope for extra leave.

The unions are likely to wait for the results of arbitration on teachers' pay, due in July, before committing themselves.

Mr. John Week, in his presidential speech to the conference, accused the Government of a sustained campaign to denigrate the public sector through staff and service cuts.

"They are either mistaken or unproven, and seem to be based

purely on a blind dogmatic dislike of the public sector, a policy which of course pleases the Government's friends in the City, but which will only push the economy further and further into recession," he said.

The conference has before it today a motion instructing the union's executive to promote industrial action to fight cuts in services whether or not there is a threat to NALGO jobs.

THE NURSES' DISPUTE

Health service staff join the fight against cash limits

By Pauline Clark, Labour Staff

THE NEXT two or three weeks should decide whether the Government is to face a major confrontation with 70 per cent of health service employees over its 14 per cent limit on wage increases.

Britain's 490,000 nurses and midwives have so far led the fight against the health service cash limits.

But just as they show signs of losing ground in the face of Government resistance to what it regards as inflationary wage demands, their ranks are being strengthened by other groups.

These include 110,000 hospital administrators and clerical staff, who have already talked of industrial action, and 37,000 radiographers, physiotherapists and other paramedical staff, who recently flexed their industrial muscle in a row over a Clegg comparability award.

The 30,000 scientific technical and laboratory staff may also soon join the fray.

All the health service groups are united by a common determination to resist the Government's strict application of the 14 per cent cash limit and its efforts to do away with traditional pay comparators.

The unions insist that they are not just indulging in the politics of envy.

But the nurses admit their anger over pay has been inflamed by the 13.7 per cent award to doctors and they remain unimpressed by the Government's justification of it.

The Government says it was committed to accepting the recommendations of the doctors and dentists pay review body when it took office.

It also argues that doctors' and nurses' pay increases have been almost level at 66 per cent and 65.5 per cent respectively since 1978.

The nurses in return accuse the Government of using "misleading" figures.

Mr. David Williams, assistant general secretary of COHSE, says the Government has assumed that all nurses have received a 25 per cent increase from their recent Clegg comparability award.

But only one grade, representing 16 per cent of the profession, received that amount.

The nurses also contend that the 37½ hour week, which Mrs. Thatcher says is worth an extra £110m, should be treated as a matter of right because the Clegg awards were made on that basis.

They say they have lost out

in cash terms because the 37½ hour week should have been introduced retrospectively to April last year and because those who work 40 hours for the rest of this year will only be paid on plain-time rates.

The verbal crossfire between Government and unions, however, has tended to cloud the real problem among nurses which is that they see themselves as badly paid in relation to other public sector workers.

A ward sister is paid a maximum of £5,024 a year, a Staff Nurse (State Registered) £4,107, and a fully trained State Enrolled Nurse £3,659.

Such levels of pay, say nurses, take no account of responsibility and unsocial hours.

The health administrators and clerks, meanwhile, say their fight against cash limits is based on the need to protect their pay in the future.

They are angry that a 14 per cent settlement would break a 20-year link with certain Civil Service grades which received pay rises of about 18 per cent this year.

Hospital scientific and technical staff could, the union leaders believe, be faced with a similar problem if they are offered 14 per cent. It would give them less than Civil Service scientific officers with whom they are traditionally linked.

The Pay Research Unit findings on Civil Service scientists' pay are expected to be known shortly.

Radiographers claim they have fared worse than nurses since 1978.

While the nurses' pay increased by 65.5 per cent, radiographers pay went up by only 43 per cent, including a 15.4 per cent Clegg award earlier this spring.

This group is seeking an urgent meeting with Dr. Gerard Vaughan, Health Minister.

The nurses' battle is likely to influence the direction and outcome of other health service pay battles this summer.

The prospect of a major campaign by nurses has already divided following the Royal College of Nursing decision last week not to support industrial action.

And nurses' negotiators are still privately discussing a deal within 14 per cent in spite of their earlier announcement that they would not agree to less than the doctors received.

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UK NEWS - PARLIAMENT and POLITICS

Industry regional aid may be streamlined

By Robin Reeves

A HINT that the Government may streamline the procedures for regional aid to industry was given by Mr. Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, in the Commons yesterday.

Appearing before the Welsh Select Committee's inquiry into the Welsh jobs crisis, Mr. Edwards said he intended to examine all the evidence on the subject submitted to the committee to see whether regional aid applications from companies might best be channelled through a single body.

At present, various types of regional aid are handled by three separate bodies—the De-



Nicholas Edwards: examining evidence

partment of Industry's Cardiff office, the Welsh Development Agency and the Welsh Office.

Mr. Leo Abse, the committee's chairman, said they had received repeated complaints about the present arrangements. It appeared to create unnecessary duplication of effort and spread of bureaucracy.

Mr. Edwards refused to be drawn on a figure for future Welsh unemployment stemming from the steel industry run-down.

The suggestion from a Welsh Office official that 125,000 (compared with 98,000 at present) was within the realms of possibility could not be described as a firm forecast he said.

PM defends effects of economic policy

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MRS. MARGARET THATCHER faced a concerted Labour attack in the Commons yesterday over the effects of the Government's economic policies on industry.

The Prime Minister was noisily jeered and derided as she insisted that "lower pay settlements now will mean lower unemployment later."

Mr. Barry Sheerman (L. Huddersfield E) asked what part of the Government's "magic formula" was missing in West Yorkshire.

Industry there was doing everything right, he declared. "They are hard working, highly skilled, have a history of accepting comparatively low wage rates, export most of the things they produce."

But he added, factories were closing, jobs were disappearing and "a hopeless feeling of dismay" was creeping over the area.

"If factories were closing it was because they were unable to compete," Mrs. Thatcher retorted.

"Why? why?" Labour MPs shouted.

"One of the reasons is that the level of productivity is way below that of other countries," said Mrs. Thatcher.

Mr. John Maxton (Lab. Cathcart) pointed out that the Weir Group, a Scottish engineer-

ing company with a fine export and investment record, had just announced 1,000 redundancies.

When high inflation, high interest rates and exchange rates affected such a company, it was time the Government changed its policies, he suggested.

"If a company is having to declare redundancies, it is obviously unable to sell its products in the market," Mrs. Thatcher replied, amid Labour derision.

Many companies were maintaining high export levels, she maintained.

Mr. Jack Straw (L. Blackburn) said that the EEC Commission forecast that Britain's economy would be worse this year than those of any of its European partners.

"Do you think this dismal performance has anything to do with your policies?" he demanded.

"If not, what scapegoat are you going to use to explain it?"

The Prime Minister said that the only alternatives to the Government's policies were an increase in income tax, an increase in value-added tax, borrowing more money, or printing more.

"I reject all four," she declared.

Sir John Eden (C. Bourne-

mouth) came to Mrs. Thatcher's support as Labour MPs continued their attack.

He urged her to stick to her policies. "Is it not clear that desired changes and improvements in economic performance cannot be achieved without causing some temporary difficulty," he said.

Mrs. Thatcher agreed. "Lower pay settlements now will mean lower unemployment later."

Mr. Guy Barnett (L. Greenwich) inquired: "Do you not think that the number of redundancies and closures taking place have anything whatever to do with bank rates?"

Bank rate and interest rates had been high for nearly a year, Mrs. Thatcher responded.

"But the exports from this country have kept up extremely well and many companies have increased productivity."

Unless companies achieved increased productivity they would not be able to compete efficiently.

The Prime Minister yesterday rejected an appeal from Scots Labour MPs to stop the sale of the NEB's 50 per cent stake in Ferranti.

Mr. Gavin Strang (L. Edinburgh E) said in the Commons that the company's management and workforce were united in opposition to the sale.

Tenerife aircraft 'made wrong turn'

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY EDITOR

The Dan-Air Boeing 727 which crashed in April at Tenerife killing 146—mainly Manchester holidaymakers—turned in the wrong direction before hitting a mountain, Mr. John Nott, Trade Secretary, told the Commons yesterday.

The aircraft commander failed in his expressed intention of entering a "holding pattern."

Later, Mr. Nott said the plane did not follow the instructions it was given.

During the exchanges which followed, Mr. Nott's statement, a number of MPs expressed concern at the lack of local surveillance radar at Los Rodeos Airport.

But Mr. Nott explained that many airports used by British airlines were without this form of local radar.

If Britain was unilaterally to demand it at all airports used by British aircraft, this could bring serious consequences.

He advised MPs to leave this in the hands of the experts and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr. Nott repeatedly stressed that his statement was only of an interim nature. He told MPs: "I must be very careful what I say."

Mr. John Smith, Opposition Trade Secretary, pointed out that many thousands of British holiday makers would be travelling to the area in the coming months.

Replying to Mr. Smith's detailed questions, the Trade Secretary confirmed that the aircraft "turned to the left towards the sea when it should have gone on to a new heading. It did not turn in the correct direction."

Mr. Winston Churchill (C. Stroud), a pilot himself, said the absence of local surveillance radar at Tenerife airport was a "very grave deficiency."

The accident could have been avoided if such radar had been installed, even if the pilot had not properly complied with the initial air traffic control instructions, he said.

Mr. Nott replied that there was surveillance radar at Los Palmas, which covered the whole island, but there was no local radar at Los Rodeos.

Mr. Nott said this was not dissimilar to the situation in many airports.

Heath calls for more co-operation in West

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY EDITOR

MR. EDWARD HEATH warned yesterday that if industrialised consumers did not act in concert in the field of energy, international oil supplies would become still less predictable and the world economy would slide further into recession.

In a speech at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, the former Conservative Prime Minister argued that the need for the West to manage its affairs on a joint basis in many spheres was a relatively new task in which it had little experience and even less success.

"Yet our ability to succeed in this task will determine whether the economic tide in the eighties will come to favour us or to engulf us," he declared.

Mr. Heath believed the world economic situation was now characterised by a dangerous combination of five factors—low economic growth, high inflation, high unemployment, high interest rates and high energy prices. A combination of all five of these factors was unprecedented in economic history.

It was not possible, in his view, to overstate the importance of taking further steps to

promote the responsiveness of the supply side of the economy.

"No efforts by Government to manipulate the demand side of the economy will successfully reduce inflation and improve growth unless they are accompanied by a sustained battery of policies to facilitate and encourage the adaptation of businesses to new markets and technologies."

He believed that each member state of the European Community should take urgent steps to foster greater understanding of the conditions and customs of foreign markets, both within and outside the Common Market.

This was a responsibility both of individual companies and industries and of business schools and public industrial training schemes.

Another fundamental problem was the increasingly serious monetary disorder in the world. An era had been entered in which the responsibility for managing the world's monetary arrangements would have to be shared between its major participants.

The American economy was

no longer large enough to underwrite the stability of a world monetary system based almost exclusively on the dollar.

Mr. Heath believed that major progress would have to be made in the second stage of development of the European Monetary System.

"It is my hope that by this second stage Britain will have found it technically feasible to join the EMS so that she will be able to have a major voice in determining the future development of a world monetary system."

Mr. Heath advocated a re-doubling of efforts to achieve a solution to the problem of the Palestinians in order to ensure stability in the Middle East. He believed the EEC should play a role in finding a solution which was both active and united.

It was in the interests of the entire Western world that Europe should not delay in pursuing this role, otherwise there was the danger that the current decline in the momentum of negotiation over the Palestinian problem would rapidly unsettle the entire Middle East.

Water meters plan for homes

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

THE possibility of metering domestic users for water has been revived again as part of a Departmental review of Britain's water industry.

Another idea being mooted is that a new level of consumer representation may be necessary to make the industry more responsive to customer opinion.

The review is being carried out by Ministers at the Department of Environment against a background of concern about rising water prices. There is also continued anxiety about the way in which demand for water looks like outstripping supply in the future, unless domestic customers reduce their consumption.

For the moment, the review is being carried out in the context of what action can be taken without resorting to major new legislation.

The Government has already referred the biggest water authority, the Severn Trent Water Authority, to the Monopolies Commission because of

complaints about the sudden rise in its prices.

Other water authorities are expected to be referred to the commission shortly. As a result of these inquiries, recommendations may be made about the structure of the industry. It was last reorganised seven years ago, when the responsibility for water supply was taken away from the local authorities and given to 10 new water authorities.

The Monopolies Commission is not expected to report for some time. In the meantime, Mr. Tom King, the Planning Minister, is seeing the authorities' chief executives.

The worry seems to be that, at present, consumers are not adequately represented and that the local authority representatives who have a majority of seats on the water boards are not making their presence felt. For this reason, Ministers are wondering whether a new consumer body should be set up to represent consumer interests.

The difficulty is that it would appear to run counter to the Government's policy of cutting back on quangos.

The other aspect of the review is how to encourage a more prudent use of water by householders. At present, domestic users are charged a sum related to the rateable value of the house, which does not necessarily have anything to do with consumption.

The Department of Environment has considered introducing meters for water, before, but until now this has been regarded as prohibitively expensive.

Rough estimates put the figure for installing meters in every house at £1.5bn. On top of that would be the cost of reading them.

But Ministers have asked officials to see whether, with the development of the micro-chip, a more sophisticated kind of consumption gauge might be introduced.

London Clearing Banks' balances

as at May 21, 1980

THE TABLES below provide the first monthly indication of the trends of bank lending and deposits, ahead of the more comprehensive banking and money supply figures published later by the Bank of England. Tables 1, 2 and 3 are prepared by the London clearing banks. Tables 1 and 2 cover the business

of their offices and their subsidiaries (excluding Scottish and Northern Ireland banks) in England and Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man which are listed by the Bank of England as falling within the banking sector. Table 3 covers the parent banks only. In this, it is comparable with the figures

produced by the Bank of England, which show the reserve positions of all the banking sectors subject to credit control. Minor differences here arise from the exclusion from the clearing bank figures of Courts, a subsidiary of National Westminster but a clearing bank in its own right.

TABLE 1. AGGREGATE BALANCES

	Total outstanding £m	Change on month £m
LIABILITIES		
Sterling deposits:		
UK banking sector	7,971	+380
UK private sector	35,326	+188
UK public sector	615	+146
Overseas residents	4,054	+84
Certificates of deposit	2,070	+70
of which: Sight	50,035	+863
Time (inc. CD's)	19,389	-138
	30,646	+1,006
Foreign currency deposits:		
UK banking sector	7,013	+431
Other UK residents	1,620	+78
Overseas residents	16,324	+109
Certificates of deposit	1,401	-2
	26,357	+616
Total deposits	76,893	+1,484
Other liabilities*	12,040	-255
TOTAL LIABILITIES	88,932	+1,229
ASSETS		
Sterling		
Cash and balances with Bank of England	1,366	+28
Market loans:		
Discount market	2,617	-47
UK banks	11,321	+490
Certificates of deposit	1,634	+51
Local authorities	894	-28
Other	427	+6
	16,793	+473
TOTAL ASSETS	18,155	+473

* Includes items in suspense and in transit.

TABLE 2. INDIVIDUAL GROUPS OF BANKS' BALANCES

OF BANKS' BALANCES												
	Out- standing £m	Change on month £m	Out- standing £m	Change on month £m	Out- standing £m	Change on month £m	Out- standing £m	Change on month £m	Out- standing £m	Change on month £m	Out- standing £m	Change on month £m
LIABILITIES												
Total deposits	76,893	+1,484	21,446	+341	14,126	+21	15,110	+159	24,023	+884	2,188	+79
ASSETS												
Cash and balances with Bank of England	1,366	+28	415	-6	315	+105	279	-3	299	-80	55	+12
Market loans:												
UK banks and discount market ...	20,245	+788	5,654	+42	3,581	-201	2,899	+229	7,621	+703	491	+7
Other	14,541	+304	4,020	+66	3,533	+34	2,222	-114	4,398	+273	367	+45
Bills	1,687	+142	359	+24	223	+17	545	+41	500	+57	40	+3
British Government stocks	869	-41	157	+47	127	+4	336	-8	186	-84	62	-
Advances	38,178	+415	11,395	+159	6,476	+97	8,825	+51	11,225	+82	1,256	+25

TABLE 3. CREDIT CONTROL INFORMATION (Parent banks only)

INFORMATION												
(Parent banks only)												
Eligible liabilities	30,863	+128	9,490	+190	5,100	+17	7,363	-74	7,948	-26	1,071	+21
Reserve assets	2,942	+12	1,237	+23	630	+13	923	+1	1,063	-30	140	+4
Reserve ratio (%)	12.8	-	12.9	-	12.7	+0.2	12.7	+0.1	12.6	-0.4	12.0	+0.1

Banking figures

(as table 4 in Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin)

ELIGIBLE LIABILITIES, RESERVE ASSETS, RESERVE RATIOS, AND SPECIAL DEPOSITS

	May 21 1980 £m	Change on month £m
1-Banks		
Eligible liabilities		
UK banks		
London clearing banks	31,022	+119
Scottish clearing banks	3,338	-
Northern Ireland banks	1,176	+22
Accepting houses	2,410	+69
Other	7,587	+317
Overseas banks		
American banks	5,079	+274
Japanese banks	880	-87
Other overseas banks	3,826	+106
Consortium banks	404	+48
Total eligible liabilities*	55,221	+919
Reserve assets		
UK banks		
London clearing banks	3,963	+7
Scottish clearing banks	436	+3
Northern Ireland banks	165	-2
Accepting houses	330	+10
Other	995	+21
Overseas banks		
American banks	661	+12
Japanese banks	54	-3
Other overseas banks	565	+35
Consortium banks	63	+6
Total reserve assets	7,232	+90
Constitution of total reserve assets		
Balances with Bank of England	456	+40
Money at call:		
Discount market	3,641	+39
Other	276	+10
UK, Northern Ireland Treasury Bills	1,083	+18
Other bills:		
Local authority	358	+58
Commercial	1,021	+3
British Government stocks with one-year or less to final maturity	397	-87
Other	-	-
Total reserve assets	7,232	+90

	May 21 1980 £m	Change on month £m
Ratios %		
UK banks		
London clearing banks	12.8	-
Scottish clearing banks	13.1	-
Northern Ireland banks	14.0	-0.4
Accepting houses	12.7	-0.6
Other	13.1	-0.6
Overseas banks		
American banks	12.0	-0.5
Japanese banks	14.2	+0.5
Other overseas banks	14.8	+0.5
Consortium banks	15.5	-
Combined ratio	13.1	-0.1

	May 21 1980 £m	Change on month £m
N.B.—Government stock holdings with more than one year but less than 18 months to final maturity amounted to	106	+28
2-Finance houses		
Eligible liabilities	517	+18
Reserve assets	53.3	+2.1
Ratio (%)	10.3	-

Special deposits at May 21 were nil (unchanged) for banks and nil (unchanged) for finance houses. * Interest-bearing eligible liabilities were £27,575 (up £1,056m).

No consumer directors for state industries

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

MRS. SALLY OPPENHEIM, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, yesterday ruled out the idea of consumer directors for the nationalised industries. The tone of her speech seems bound to raise hackles in the consumer movement for the way in which she appeared to brand those who like the National Consumer Council, called for such appointments as misguided social democrats—though it may go down well on the Tory benches.

The idea, he said, was a "knee jerk response we could do without," and just another symptom of the "comforting delusion" that fundamental problems could be resolved by the appointment of "so-called representatives."

Mrs. Oppenheim's Department is in the middle of a review of the whole question of consumer representation in the public sector.

The idea of consumer directors was one of a number put forward by the Government—financed National Consumer Council whose relations with Mrs. Oppenheim have not always been easy.

It was also backed before the election by the sold all-party Select Committee on Nationalised Industries.

But, speaking last night at the annual dinner of the National TV Rental Association, Mrs. Oppenheim said there was nothing wrong with nationalised industries that consumer directors could put right.

No one, she said, could blame consumer activists for wanting to increase their own power and influence if they genuinely believed their proposals were right. But the political pressure for consumer directors required the most critical examination: "They may be in their infancy but



Sally Oppenheim: delusion

their significance is considerable."

Mrs. Oppenheim, who was jeered at the NCC's last conference when she dismissed the council's ambitions for a larger role in economic decision-making, said the pressure came from the same background as those who favoured consumer representation on the macro-economic level.

This background was the so-called moderate wing of the Labour Party.

Mrs. Oppenheim emphasised, however, that the Government was determined to tackle the problems of the nationalised industries. The Competition Act, she pointed out, gave the Monopolies Commission the power to investigate the efficiency and costs of nationalised industries. In future, she promised, this provision would be of great value to consumers generally.

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their significance is considerable."

Mrs

Why takeovers must follow a new code

Richard Lambert talks to the chairman of the American SEC, who is unhappy about present trends in company acquisitions

CURRENT trends in takeover activity will not be acceptable to society at large over the long term. Either companies will voluntarily change their approach to buying and selling one another, or else sooner or later governments will introduce laws to control these activities. Such legislation would probably be arbitrary and unfair, and would tend to be designed for political rather than economic purposes.

This is the view of Harold Williams, chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. His arguments have been developed in a North American context, but concern issues which are equally relevant in the UK and other developed capitalist economies.

Because shareholders no longer think of themselves as proprietors but as portfolio investors, there has been a diminishing recognition of the fact that ownership of shares involves ownership of the underlying assets of a company. This has resulted from the growing importance of institutional investors in most stock markets around the world, and also from the concentration of economic power within very large corporations. Even the biggest shareholder in General Motors cannot feel much personal identification with the performance of a particular factory or division.

The trouble with this, says Williams, is that the uncoupling of shares from their

underlying assets has not yet been properly recognised in law or practice. Ownership of property brings with it responsibilities as well as rights. But many shareholders seem to have little concern for the long-term interests of a business, its employees and customers. They are often quite prepared to sell out to anyone who is willing to offer them a premium over the recent stock market price.

Constraints by law

In this sense, they are no more than speculators in the short-term income stream of the business.

Williams recognises that the possibility of a takeover serves as a healthy discipline for management—which is why he does not want to see artificial constraints on bids imposed by law. But he describes the notion that a takeover should succeed or fail solely on the stock market's transient view of the adequacy of an offeror's premium as "particularly unsatisfactory."

Such an idea ignores major questions about the increasing concentration of economic power through takeovers and the appropriate use of corporate assets in a period of increasing economic competition. When the shares of so many companies are selling for far less than the asset value, it can often seem

a lot easier and less risky to look for takeover targets than for green field investment opportunities.

"The immediate results of a takeover are particularly attractive to a corporate executive who seeks the ego satisfaction, prestige and remuneration associated with the size and appearance of growth," Williams states firmly.

But businesses are more than just the aggregate of their tangible assets. And employees, suppliers, customers, communities and society at large have a legitimate interest in their development. It is not satisfactory that they should change hands with little more concern about the consequences than in a game of Monopoly.

Maintain its independence

Some investing institutions are coming around to Mr. Williams' view that the ownership of a business should not be determined by price alone. For instance, the Prudential Corporation, a major force in the UK equity market, said in its recent annual report that "where a bid is not recommended by a board of a well-managed company, our inclination is to support a company's

desire to maintain its independence."

But the SEC chairman believes that the only player on the corporate scene who is properly equipped to assess all the relevant factors in a takeover is the independent non-executive director. And he thinks that if unsatisfactory legislation is to be avoided, the non-executive director will have to play a much more prominent role in future takeover battles, both from the point of view of the bidder and of the intended victim.

On the bidder's board, non-executive directors should not be prepared to accept uncoupled rhetoric about synergy or the benefits of improved management and financial controls, which are so frequently promised in bids and which so rarely materialise. They should assess management's previous acquisition performance, and form a reasoned judgment about the cash worth of a particular target.

They should be especially rigorous about querying the economic justification for paying a big premium over the ruling stock market price. Mr. Williams thinks that the higher this premium, the more likely it is that management is on nothing more than an ego trip.

He says that non-executive directors also have a responsibility to consider the available alternatives. It might be cheaper all round, for instance, to hand excess cash back to shareholders and let them make their own decisions about diversification. After all, they do not have to pay vast premiums over market values if they do it themselves.

Too much at stake

As for the target company's board, Mr. Williams says that executive directors cannot be presumed to be acting solely in the corporation's interests when it comes to assessing a bid. They can have just too much at stake, in terms of finance and personal power, to be completely objective. So he would like to see boards of directors delegating to special committees of non-executive directors the responsibility for investigating offers, and for recommending the appropriate response.

Of course, the views of the executive directors should be taken into account when making the final decision about whether to accept or reject. But if they clash with the recommendations of their independent colleagues, the burden should be on them

to demonstrate that their ideas square with the best interests of the business as a whole.

Such a proposal implies pretty formidable strengths for non-executive directors. Mr. Williams thinks that they should at least be in an outright majority on company boards. Ideally, he says, they should have two-thirds or three-quarters of the board seats.

The question is whether independent directors can realistically be expected to play such a dominant role in so crucial a part of corporate life as a takeover. Maybe it could happen in the U.S., where the threat of legal actions by shareholders is something which management ignores at its peril. Because of the heavy legal burdens which are involved, people are much less willing than they might have been in the past to take on a non-executive appointment as a favour to a friend.

But these disciplines do not apply with anything like the same force in the UK, and the number of occasions on which non-executive directors have made their voice heard in takeover bids here can be counted on the fingers of one hand.



HAROLD WILLIAMS, who is 52, was trained as a lawyer and joined the legal staff of Hunt Foods as a tax counsel in 1955. In 1968, when Hunt was merged with Canada Dry and McCall Corp. into Norton Simon, he emerged as chairman of the new company's finance committee, and the following year he also became chairman of the Board. In 1970, Mr. Williams was

appointed Dean of the Graduate School of Management at UCLA. He moved to the SEC in 1977 at a low point in the agency's history—there had been five chairmen in the space of six years—and he set about America's financial community with some gusto. His approach has become rather more gentle in the past year or two: "We have their attention now," he explains.

Subsidiaries—are they under parental control?

BY A. H. HERMANN



In Germany, but not only there.

The general trend is well evident in the EEC proposal for the creation of a new type of "European company." This is a very old proposal, last amended in 1975, and still awaiting approval by the Council. The business community has shown no great urge to start establishing European companies, but a lot of work has gone into the proposal, and it is therefore of some interest that it adopts the principle that a company forming part of a large group must contribute to the overall benefit of that group even if this is against its own interests.

The adoption of this principle has important implications. According to Article 240 c of the proposed statute of the European company, the Board of a subsidiary company would not be liable for damages resulting from their implementation of instructions received from the parent company—the Statute would give the parent company the power to issue mandatory instructions to the subsidiary.

The reverse side of the coin is that the statute provides (in Article 240 a, b) that the members of the Board of the parent company are liable to the subsidiary if they have not exercised the care of a conscientious manager in issuing

their instructions. If a company is no longer operated in its own interests its creditors may suffer. The statute provides, therefore, for joint liability of the parent company for the debts of the subsidiary.

The statute also provides for a complicated system for the protection of minority shareholders who may be entitled to annual compensation payments if they do not wish to leave the dependent company. On the other hand, if the controlling company has acquired at least 90 per cent of the shares, it can require the minority shareholders to sell their shares for cash or in exchange for the shares of the parent. These provisions reflect to a large extent the protection of creditors and minority shareholders included in the German Konzerngesetz (Group of Companies Acts).

These EEC proposals seem to be a very far cry from the doctrine of limited liability as formulated by English courts at the end of the 19th century. However, there is no fundamental contradiction between the two approaches. The doctrine of limited liability was designed to protect individual, mostly private, shareholders of modest means and to enable them to enter into business ventures with a limited personal liability.

By contrast the present problems are created by multinational companies which appear as shareholders financially much more powerful than the companies which they control. The English courts are not blind to the change. In 1969 Lord Denning, M.R. said: "The doctrine... has often been supposed to cast a veil over the personality of a limited company through which the courts cannot see... (but the courts) can and often do pull off the mask. They look to see what really lies behind."

As a result there are important exceptions to the general rule that the obligations and liabilities of a company are not transmitted to its shareholders, and that the company is only liable to the extent of its own assets. The parent company, which is a shareholder of the subsidiary, will be liable for obligations which the subsidiary incurred while acting as its agent.

And where the subsidiary is a creature of the parent the courts are likely to hold that there was an agency relationship. While this gives some protection to creditors, minority shareholders in a subsidiary have no greater rights than minority shareholders in any other independent company.

Though in cases of insolvency the general rule is that parent companies and their subsidiaries will be treated in the UK as separate legal entities, a parent company might be included in charges of conspiracy to defraud, along with the directors of the subsidiary or of the parent. A parent company controlling a subsidiary through its nominated directors could be held to be a party to the

fraudulent carrying on of business of the insolvent subsidiary.

In practice, proceedings would probably be taken against the parent company's directors, but the parent company itself might have civil liability under Section 332 of the Companies Act 1948. The subsidiary would find it more difficult to pursue claims against a parent company carrying on business abroad; but the directors of the foreign parent might, if within UK jurisdiction, have a criminal liability in connection with any offences committed by the parent company, for example, by aiding or conspiring in fraudulent trading.

While English law moves only reluctantly towards recognition of the parent's responsibilities towards creditors and minority shareholders of subsidiaries, it is much more willing to help the taxman.

There are special provisions which take account of the existence of the group in respect of advanced corporation tax, allowances on capital expenditure, and payments of interest. A group of companies is generally treated as a single unit for the purpose of corporation tax and capital gains. There is also a number of provisions to discourage tax avoidance and evasion by groups of companies, and here we complete a full circle leading back to the Lords' judgment on the documents required by Lorrho from the Shell and BP subsidiaries. By contrast, with the denial of these documents to Lorrho, HM Inspector of Taxes may require a parent company resident in the UK to produce information about transfer prices from a subsidiary company. *Stores v. CIR.*

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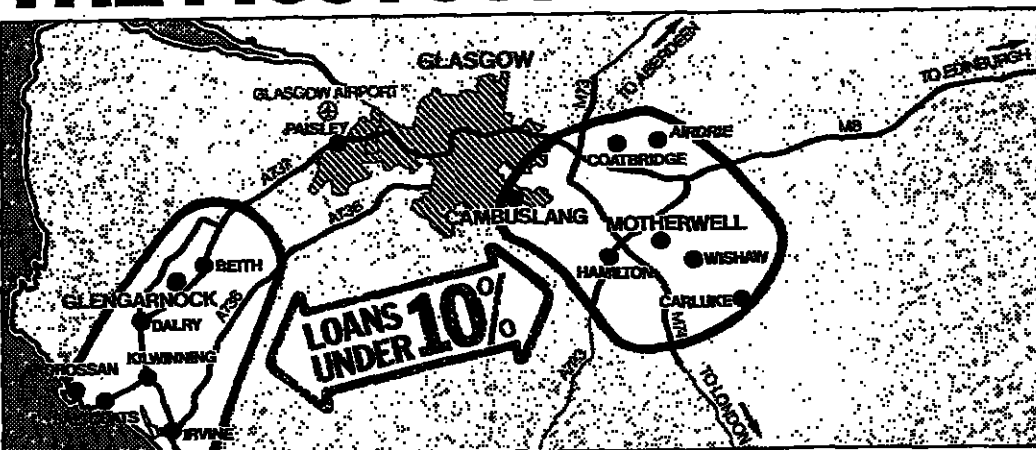
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Waiting for MLR day

BY PETER RIDDELL

"The stocks were sold; the Press was squared; the Middle Class was quite prepared."

Hilaire Belloc, *Cautionary Tales*. And still we wait. The only question now is not whether but when. Minimum Lending Rate will be cut, and by how much. The City is in a state of eager anticipation and the Government appeared to be clearing the decks last week by announcing the unwinding of much of its special help to the markets.

Lively debate

Yet the decision is far from clear and the authorities, in all their splendid multiplicity, are engaged in a lively debate on the issue. Confusion has been increased by a number of ambiguous ministerial statements. These have provoked the anger of some of the City's more "monetarist" commentators.

Penetrating this fog is not easy but here goes. The Government does, of course, want to reduce MLR as soon as possible for obvious political and economic reasons. A cut can be presented as an indicator of success in reducing monetary growth to within the target range. A cut also may take some of the upward pressure off sterling.

The advocates of a cut now argue that sterling M3 is rising at an annual rate around the top of the 7 to 11 per cent target range after allowing for month-to-month fluctuations. Consequently, since the initial objective has been achieved, MLR should be cut; as Sir Geoffrey Howe pointed out last Friday, lower interest rates are an important element in the Government's strategy and imply no change in policy. But, argue the voices of caution, you should look at the components of monetary growth where the outlook is less reassuring. The public sector's financial position has been unusually favourable until recently (because of the bunching of various receipts) but is now back in deficit. Moreover, as Sir Geoffrey pointed out in late May, "the increase in bank lending is still being sustained. We wish to see firm

evidence of a reduction on that front before we can be entirely confident about the timing of interest rates." Remarks like this have led some analysts to wonder whether the Government has abandoned a sterling M3, though with obvious attention to large and erratic elements like bank lending. The "don't cut" school warns that it is too risky to act now in view of the end of the corset this month and the uncertainties of both scale and timing about switching back (or reintermediation) of commercial bills. This could add 2 per cent or so to sterling M3 over the next few months and while this is a cosmetic adjustment it is nonetheless likely to affect the market.

So much for the economics, now for the politics. There is first the Thatcher factor. Officials well remember how difficult it was to persuade the Prime Minister to raise MLR last June and they are worried that if rates are cut now it will be very difficult to raise them again. Allied to this is the point that building societies rates are now artificially low, while mortgage rates will not be reduced if MLR falls by two or three points over the summer they would undoubtedly be increased if MLR had to be raised again, even back to current levels.

Market reaction

The men of caution also argue that to cut MLR while the inflation prospects are so murky, and before the 12-month rate starts to fall, would be wrong psychologically. Far better on this view to hold MLR a little longer in the hope of larger cuts later. All the cards add up to a finely balanced debate within the Bank and the Treasury with the odds moving in favour of a cut by the end of July. On dates, it is worth remembering that Governments do not like to change MLR until after the latest monetary statistics are available which explains why July 17 is so often mentioned, not that yesterday's banking figures for May have apparently but is now back in deficit. Moreover, as Sir Geoffrey pointed out in late May, "the increase in bank lending is still being sustained. We wish to see firm

EACH SEASON has its own tone in the garden, and in mid-June the dominant tone is blue. Blue flowers are a race apart, too intense to be photographed properly and too varied to be described precisely as they range from sky blue across to the deep blue of the best delphinium. In between, lies the nurseryman's blue, that area of mauves, lavenders and violets which join the true blue circle in order to be sold more freely.

There are few blue campanulids and even fewer blue geraniums outside the optimum of a nurseryman's blue. But in mid-June there is enough true blue for a border to be planned around its best matching colours. Blue, silver and pale yellow are my particular preference. They can be contrived with blue border-plants, yellow-flowered shrub roses and groups of silver-leaved plants.

In June, the *enchaussée* and the delphinium have to take pride of place among the true blues. Both are essential plants if you want to add colour quickly to a new garden which is short of height. The *enchaussée* will reach its best in the season after planting and will rapidly fill up the range of plants at four or five feet. It draws on one long taproot, so it must stand in ground which is deep and fertile throughout the year and drains well in winter. Otherwise, the root stock is liable to rot.

As a general rule you cannot hope for a long life from your clumps. Choose any of the named forms, of which Loddon Royalist is the least tall but the truest blue, and remember that all of them are easily increased from root cuttings. I have never kept good plants for longer than four years, so I reckon with this regular replacement.

There are many good matches for them, but I particularly like the early-flowering yellow shrub roses, the glorious Fruhlings Gold, the smaller double-flowered Harrison's Yellow and above all the profuse single flowers of the *Blackmore*. These are a superb foil for the deepest blue so I would use them in a big border as a yellow-flowered frame for a combination of blue and silver-leaved plants.

Delphiniums are a more permanent fixture. They are best bought in a recognised garden centre like Blackmore and Langdon's Mixture. Mature plants are quite expensive but a packet of seed will only cost you £1 and now is the time to sow these marvellous perennials.

Give this prize seed enough moisture while in the seed box and it will cause you little trouble. By next spring, you can move your transplanted seedlings into place and expect a full show for 1982. Exhibitors produce flower spikes whose length and evenness are always a wonder.

One reason is the excellence

of the named forms which they grow and which you can share quite cheaply through the seed. Another lies in the heavy feeding which they give their plant. Delphiniums are very greedy, they thrive on rotted horse manure and a regular dressing with garden fertiliser.

There are two main forms, *Perenne* and *Narbonnese*. The former changes colour in many gardens, as the day proceeds.

GARDENS TODAY

BY ROBIN LANE FOX

After flowering, remember that you should always cut down the dead flower spikes. You will usually be showing in September. Those who complain that delphiniums take up to much room ignore this second season.

If you grow seedlings with a specially good colour take a cutting from them this spring and set it in a light sandy soil. Personally I like the pure whites and any of the deep gentian blues. I do not see the point of the pale lavender mauves unless you are planning a subtle match for them, a white and grey border perhaps or a shocking pink.

These border plants are well known to every front garden but far fewer gardeners are aware of the blue which is just as pure and twice as obliging. Perennial blue flax can be raised by the hundred from a

20p packet seed sown now. It will feed itself freely after one year in flower and will hold its blue flowers throughout the summer.

Flax is hopeless in shade. The shape of the plant is slender and upright so it will fit into almost any grouping. I use it as an inter-planting among white roses where it seeds itself quite happily. It makes a long stream of pure blue flowers down a border at a height of scarcely two feet.

The last time I called a plant foolproof and gave it to a colleague, it promptly died on him and he felt most insulted. I

still believe that almost nothing could ever kill flax, and anyway it is marvellously cheap.

Its particular blue is an exact match to the pale blue forms of the *campanulids*. This comparison, like most others, dawned on me by chance when I placed two plants side by side and woke up next year to their exact coincidence of colour and season. For the backward of wide border, the *campanulids* are as good as anything. The evergreen leaves are always there to break up the lower clumps of surrounding flower.

The family grows quickly and easily thriving in poor soil, a frequent condition at the foot of the wall or in the back of the big bed. The flowers on the powder-blue *Gloire de Versailles* pair with pale blue flax whereas the spectacular deep blue of *topaz* is nearer to the delphinium. Most colour planners think only in terms of contrast but a good match can be just as exciting.

At present I have a long run of this flax side by side with a *campanulid* and a little further on, the blue lavender flowers of the white variegated *iris*. Their similar colour holds together one corner of garden.

The flowers of *campanulids* are familiar to you all, but the finer blue of its selected *Six Hills* form is still unusual. This is a superb border plant, another free-growing blue flower, with a loose habit and a wide spread which softens any

hard planting and takes the upright edge off *irises* and their leaves.

It will reach nearly three feet and, should be masked for its impact, one of those spreading plants which can be repeated down the length of border so as to lead the eye down a whole range of colour. It is a splendid race to silver leaves, perhaps the silvery leaves on the good silver *salvia*.

One problem with a new border is how best to give it unity without using too many different plants. *Six Hills* cannot be a willing grower which will push out across a border's front line and give it some shape from an early age.

These few strong blues go a long way, especially if you live them up with primrose-yellow *irises*, yellow shrub roses and primroses, and yellow forms of *St. Rose*. Limited colours are not always fashionable in smaller gardens but I think that segregation gives each bed a theme and best shows off the different shades.

You may only have room for a group of silver leaves beside a clump of the best blue-dowered border. *Six Hills* is two-foot high. Johnson's Blue. You may indeed be able to plan more grandly with *campanulids* and yellow roses. But June is rare in its abundance of nature's best blues and I would not want a garden which did not plan to give them high priority.

Candy stable can score double

HENRY CANDY and Philip Waldron, who came so close to winning their first Derby with Master Willie last week, could be the combination to follow on their local course, Newbury, this afternoon.

They have bright prospects with the once-raced Palumba, in the Isley Maiden Fillies Stakes, and through Cut Throat, bidding for a hat-trick in the Berkshire Stakes.

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Palumba could be hard pressed to hold the Jeremy Jones-trained Landini. However, Cut Throat seems unlikely to have any problems. An improving horse, who justifies a substantial backing at Salisbury after putting up an

encouraging display on his debut, Cut Throat won the Yorkshire Trainers' Trophy at Thirsk on May 31.

Although Cut Throat was lucky to win there when Landini's bid to end the streak of six straight wins was a smart performance. A repetition should see Cut Throat account for Barnet Heir, who became worked up in the preliminaries to the opener at Epsom on Derby Day.

With both Amorak and Milloletta absent from the 14-mile Twyford Stakes, Miss Neustrie could make up for a disappointing display in a Thirsk's Elmire Stakes.

The Aga Khan's horse, daughter of Rol Dagobert, was probably just in a case of the "too good to travel" syndrome. Her home work suggests she is a great deal better than her Yorkshire running suggests. She should dispose of Norfolk

Gal, a Seven Barrows filly Peter Walwyn decided against running in the Oaks.

At Yarmouth Miss Neustrie's stable companion, Hill's Realm could win the Kitty Witches Maiden Fillies Stakes.

Realism finished a couple of places behind Hazing in the Anne Boleyn Stakes at Sandown, she appears to have sufficient improvement to turn the tables.

NEWBURY

- 2.00—Palumba*
- 2.30—Saville Row
- 3.00—Enchantment
- 3.30—Cut Throat**
- 4.00—Queen's Garden
- 4.30—Miss Neustrie***

YARMOUTH

- 2.45—Hopeful Princess
- 3.15—Coral Leisure
- 4.15—Hill's Realm
- 4.45—Mercedless King

Reports. 2.45 Family. 3.45 The Amazing World of Kreskin. 7.00 Granada Reports. 11.55 The Odd Couple.

HIV

1.20 pm Report West Headlines. 2.45 The Love Boat. 7.00-As HTV West. HTV General Service except 10.30-10.40 AM. 11.55-12.10 pm. 1.20-1.30 pm. 1.30-1.40 pm. 1.40-1.50 pm. 1.50-2.00 pm. 2.00-2.10 pm. 2.10-2.20 pm. 2.20-2.30 pm. 2.30-2.40 pm. 2.40-2.50 pm. 2.50-3.00 pm. 3.00-3.10 pm. 3.10-3.20 pm. 3.20-3.30 pm. 3.30-3.40 pm. 3.40-3.50 pm. 3.50-4.00 pm. 4.00-4.10 pm. 4.10-4.20 pm. 4.20-4.30 pm. 4.30-4.40 pm. 4.40-4.50 pm. 4.50-5.00 pm. 5.00-5.10 pm. 5.10-5.20 pm. 5.20-5.30 pm. 5.30-5.40 pm. 5.40-5.50 pm. 5.50-6.00 pm. 6.00-6.10 pm. 6.10-6.20 pm. 6.20-6.30 pm. 6.30-6.40 pm. 6.40-6.50 pm. 6.50-7.00 pm. 7.00-7.10 pm. 7.10-7.20 pm. 7.20-7.30 pm. 7.30-7.40 pm. 7.40-7.50 pm. 7.50-8.00 pm. 8.00-8.10 pm. 8.10-8.20 pm. 8.20-8.30 pm. 8.30-8.40 pm. 8.40-8.50 pm. 8.50-9.00 pm. 9.00-9.10 pm. 9.10-9.20 pm. 9.20-9.30 pm. 9.30-9.40 pm. 9.40-9.50 pm. 9.50-10.00 pm. 10.00-10.10 pm. 10.10-10.20 pm. 10.20-10.30 pm. 10.30-10.40 pm. 10.40-10.50 pm. 10.50-11.00 pm. 11.00-11.10 pm. 11.10-11.20 pm. 11.20-11.30 pm. 11.30-11.40 pm. 11.40-11.50 pm. 11.50-12.00 pm. 12.00-12.10 pm. 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"My car couldn't have chosen a more desolate spot to break down. I abandoned it with ill-disguised anger and started walking.

I had been going for maybe half an hour when a Volvo estate drew up beside me. Such is my dislike of the car, that had it not been raining I would have waved the driver on."

Let me start by admitting to a certain amount of irrationality when it comes to cars.

I have always bought cars that are faster than they need be, more luxurious than they should be and more expensive than they've any right to be.

In short, when on four wheels, I am a confirmed seeker after pleasure.

In the opposite corner, I always imagined were Volvo. Austere, frugal and eminently sensible.

The kind of car your mother would say was good for you.

Judge then my feelings as the Volvo stopped beside me on that rain-soaked road.

The driver was not some elderly hill farmer but a man I would not have put much above thirty-five.

"Can I give you a lift?" he enquired as he held open the door. "I passed your car down the road—beautiful looking machine."

As I slipped into the passenger seat I noticed that I was sitting on real leather. (The first of many discoveries I was to make that evening.)

"Let me introduce myself, my name is James Durban." When on the defensive, I invariably hide behind formality.

My rescuer was more relaxed and told me that his name was Tony and that he had a house some twenty miles away.

"Have you driven far?" I asked.

"About 300 miles" he answered. "But it's very easy in the Volvo. The 265 is a very long-legged car."

"You must have spent a fortune on sound insulation" I said with an ear to the uncannily quiet performance of the engine.

"Not a bit. It's a 6-cylinder engine. 2.7 litres with fuel injection and a light alloy block. And as you can hear very quiet."

The conversation was taking a turn that displeased me. As he steered the car expertly through the narrow country roads I attempted to steer the conversation towards more general topics.

"What do you do?" I asked.

"I'm a writer and I deal in antiques. I've just bought the coffer you see in the back."

I turned round and noticed that the rear seats had been folded flat and that we were travelling with a beautiful oak chest at least 6 ft in length.

By now I was beginning to go through that most uncomfortable of human emotions—a change of mind. However, I wasn't about to give up without a struggle.

"Yes a jolly practical car the Volvo, but it's a bit short on the creature comforts don't you think?"

Looking back I'm surprised he didn't turf me out there and then. Instead, he simply defeated me with facts.

"Well," he began, "there are a few standard features you might appreciate. Like air-conditioning, electric windows, power steering, heated driver's seat..."

"How thoughtfully Nordic" I muttered gracelessly.

He continued with a light smile, "Metallic paint, electrically operated door mirrors, heated rear window, central locking."

I interrupted him. "Alright, point taken. And I suppose you still haven't come to things like a cigar lighter, electric clock and a light in the glove box?"

"Exactly" he replied. "The Volvo has all of those, not to mention stereo speakers in the front doors."

The rain had begun to ease and as my clothes dried out I recovered a little of my customary good humour.

"Well, it's certainly more comfortable than I thought, is it expensive?"

"With the automatic gearbox it runs out at £10,266."

When I thought of what I had paid for the piece of exotica languishing on the road some fifteen miles behind us, I was stung to one last justification.

"Of course, my car is much faster. I can reach 150 mph on a good dry road."

"It's not quite so fast in the wet though, is it?" He asked the question in the mildest voice possible. To my credit, after a moment's hesitation, I burst out laughing.

"Touché" I said and for the rest of a very enjoyable journey we talked about antiques. **The Volvo 265.**



EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

Printed circuit design aid

All interaction is via the tablet and there are no pen and "zoom" facilities. To produce a design the operator chooses all the required component shapes from an electronic library and reproduces them on the screen together with their interconnection data, and the machine then draws the shortest straight lines between them to give a visible aid-memory. Then, after manipulating the shapes to find their best placements, he converts the connections to route paths, by manual "cut and try" methods. The machine auto-

Already the company has started the first production run of 250 systems, a quantity "unheard of in the CAD industry anywhere in the world" according to managing director Eric Wolfendale.

Racal-Redac, Gloucestershire (0684 294161).

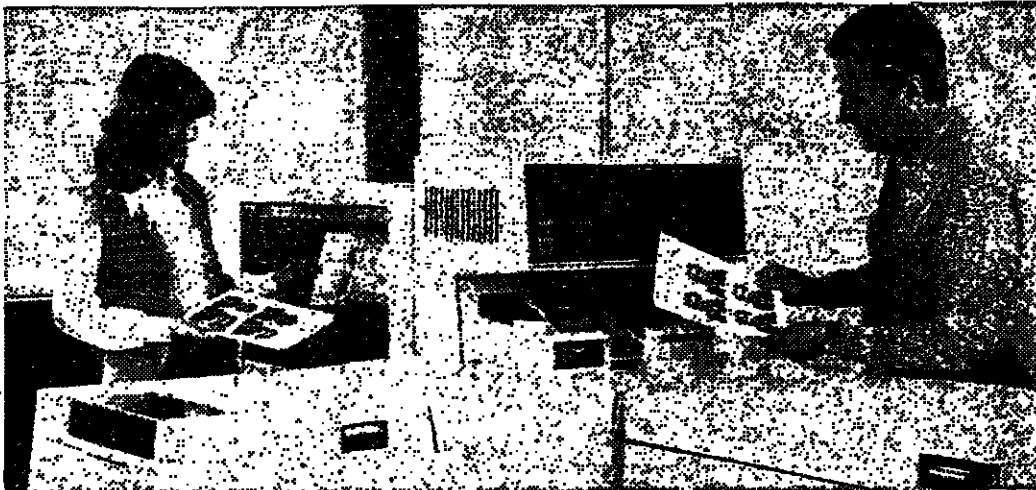
Tewkesbury, GL20 8HE

● PROCESSING

Coating capacity increased

Included in the newly acquired plant is high speed embossing equipment and gravure printing machines for producing some of the special finishes.

Semic has recently also developed a new technique for coating open scrim materials, such as polyester, glass, viscose and cotton, particularly for new types of wallcovering.



medium and low volume work and for the production of a wide range of forms. The facsimile transceiver can operate at four different speeds and automatically identifies the transmission speed of the machine with which it is communicating, altering its transmission and reception speeds as appropriate.

Hybrid car experiment

It is an \$8m 30-month project and the outcome will be a pair of four-door five seater saloons running at slow speeds on electric motors, high speeds on an 80 horse power Volkswagen engine of special design, and smooth when power bursts are needed.

Both motive power units in these front wheel drive vehicles will be mounted longitudinally under the bonnet. The electric motor will be used for speeds up to 30 mph and the IC engine for highway driving. For high output needs, as when passing another car, the load will be shared. The vehicle is expected to accelerate from zero to 50 mph in 12 seconds. Its design is

GE (U.S.A.) emphasises, however, that it has no plans at the moment to either manufacture or market hybrid or purely electrical cars. Rather, it sees long range opportunities as a supplier of items such as motors and electronics.

Overall control of the vehicle's propulsion will be by means of a microprocessor—the driver will not have to decide which of the two motors is to be used.

● COMMUNICATION

Connection confusion avoided

THE PROBLEM of identifying the ends of groups of long-bunched conductors with bare class markings is made much easier with the Cable Identifier developed by: Mason and Morton (Electronics) of Frogmore Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9RW (0442 48441).

Multi-terminal sending and receiving equipment is used at the two ends, where the conductors are connected completely at random. When the sender unit is switched on the first two wires connected to it are immediately identified by a green and a red light. These wires are then moved to two special terminals on the receiver unit and act as communications links. The operator can then identify all the other wires merely by pressing a button: an LED display will indicate each conductor in turn and a flashing light will appear next to the terminal corresponding to that conductor so that it may be marked permanently.

The system has been tested out successfully on the Dartford Tunnel signalling cables and should prove useful in the telecommunications, vehicle and aircraft industries.

GENERATORS
UP TO 500 k.v.a.
WATER PUMPS

UP TO 8 INCHES
MANUFACTURED BY
ATALANTA Engineering Ltd., Harworth Trading Estate, Harworth Lane, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9LJ, England. Tel: Chertsey 8266
Telex: 8812538 ATALAN G. Telegrams: ATALANTA CHERTS
SURREY.

● MATERIALS

Overcomes flash problem

Able to cope with this problem is the company's new belting—called Flexicord—whose technical superiority is said to be in its woven steel carcass, able to withstand heat damage. Where conventional textile belts may break or be totally destroyed, this promises to keep the carcass intact so that the belt will remain operational even after the most severe flash of high temperature material.

Streamlined service

The service makes about 12,000 patient-journeys each week amounting to 75,000 miles travelled and a running cost of £5m a year. With the previous control, any one of the 17 areas might have had ambulances doing nothing while a nearby district was overworked and short of vehicles.

With the integrated two-centre control, the dispatcher simply sends the nearest available vehicle to the 999 call; but much of the benefit will arise from better organisations of routine pick-up of patients. Better control of the 253 ambulances used by the county from two places should mean more economic journeys.

● SERVICES

Lift truck faults detected

A COMPUTER-based record of the repair and service records of every machine in the 5,000 forklift truck fleet of Harvey Plant is to be kept as part of a preventative maintenance and fault detection scheme announced by the company.

● MAINTENANCE

Washes at high pressure

EASILY MOVED to site where it takes up a minimum of space, is a simple to use high-pressure cold water washer which costs only £350 (including delivery) announces Wickham Industrial Equipment, Norton Road, Stevenage, Herts. (0438 4041).

● ENERGY Manages the demand

ACCORDING TO Plasma-Therm, 6 Station Road, Penge, London SE20 7BQ (01-778 6798) more than 200,000 industrial electricity users are charged on the dual tariff in which they are paying not only for the amount of power used but also for any excursions beyond a pre-set maximum demand.

● INSTRUMENTS

New devices from Denmark

A RANGE of electronic digital instruments made by Danish firm Sphæra Ltd. will be marketed in the UK by Smiths Industries Industrial Instrument Company.

They will carry the British company's "Venture" label and include counters, tachometers and length measuring units with a length range of 100 to 1000 ft. The instruments are of rotary generation, photo-electric and inductive transducers for use in conjunction with the instruments.

Applications will be in counting and rate measurement in many industries. Typical uses include rate counting, discriminatory counting, rotational speed checking, length measurement, wire winding, reeling and a number of other industrial applications.

For more information contact the company at Brook Road, London NW2 7BE (01-452 3333).



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[illegible]

Leicester Investors are everywhere. Join them.

Short of Skilled Computer Manpower?

Already suffering from a shortage of skilled staff and high turnover rates? Then what are the prospects over the next five years and what effect will the likely changes in technology have? What must be done to minimise serious imbalances in supply and demand? To answer these questions, vital to the future performance of UK industry, the Manpower Subcommittee of the Electronic Computers Sector Working Party commissioned a major survey. Its results have just been published in *Computer Manpower in the '80s*, on sale from HMSO price \$11.

ITS recommendations—with wide significance for computer users, manufacturers and service companies demand urgent consideration.

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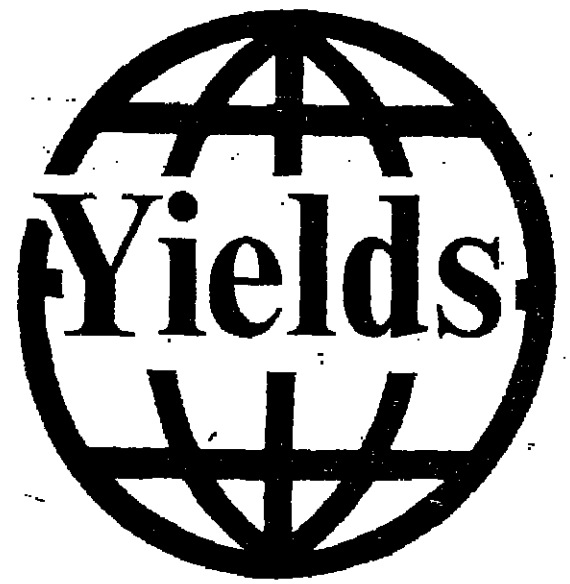
FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

AT 31st MAY 1980



The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 550 institutions from about 30 countries.

Eurobonds in May

BY DAVID MELLETT

THE EUROBOND market in May continued buoyant with a very healthy new issue volume in the major sectors. There were issues, too, in many of the other smaller currencies and most new offerings were absorbed successfully. Secondary market trading reached record levels and dealers began to recoup losses made in the winter months. However, by the end of the month, the primary market in the U.S. dollar sector began to suffer some indigestion from

too many new issues and from cautious investors worried about fast falling interest rates. Deutschmark bonds saw investors still anxious to buy new paper. Dealers believed that interest rates had peaked. This encouraged investors to lock in at high fixed coupons and yields. The fact that the dollar had lost around 5 per cent in one month against the Deutschmark was an added incentive. The dollar sector continued to be the most lively of the Euro-

bond market. Following the Federal Reserve's easing of its credit restraints, Eurodollar interest rates tumbled to their lowest levels since 1978. The six month rate fell by around 4 per cent on the month to 9 1/2 per cent. This fall completely outstripped the fall in the U.S. banks' Prime rate. There is, however, some concern in the New York market at the speed at which the Federal Reserve has allowed interest rates to come down when inflation is still considered to be

running at between 9 and 10 per cent. Decreasing money supply in the U.S. is the reason why the Federal Reserve has been able to allow rates to fall quickly but some economists think that this has been done to excess. They fear it could result in a much weaker dollar, ultimately causing interest rates to go up again. The remainder of the \$500m tap issue for the Kingdom of Sweden was completed successfully and its price reached 111 1/4, a substantial premium over issue price. This was true for many new issues on the dollar sector.

Another success was the \$200m issue for the Ford Overseas Finance Company, lead managed by Goldman Sachs. Bearing a coupon of 13 1/2 per cent and maturing in 1985 this was the month's largest issue and yet demand was such that the amount was increased to \$250m.

The total amount of new dollar bonds issued just failed to match the \$1.7bn in April. There was no doubt that borrowers were waiting to come to the market at the end of the month but new issue managers were wary that investors might have satisfied their appetites for the time being. Average yields on the dollar secondary market declined by around 75 basis points to 11 1/2 per cent.

The Floating Rate Note

sector saw its percentage of new issue volume increase in May to 34 per cent from 15 per cent in April. In the secondary market, FRNs remained stable throughout the month, even though Eurodollar interest rates were some 2 per cent lower than straight bond yields in the latter half of the month.

Compared with a scheduled DM 750-800m worth of new issues agreed by the German Capital Markets Sub-committee, DM 815m was eventually issued. The total included a DM 150m issue for Brazil, managed by Deutsche Bank.

This paper was for eight years and priced to yield 9.34 per cent, just 1/2 per cent above the rate then quoted for prime names in the primary market. Although the tax situation for Brazilian borrowers on the Deutschmark market makes this an attractive issue, the yield differential has been far greater on earlier issues from Brazil. This illustrates the current sentiment in this sector, which ended the month on a strong note with a steady flow of foreign buying. The strength of the Deutschmark, together with the likelihood that interest rates in Germany would come down, made all new issues very attractive.

Two DM issues were increased in size during the month. Akzo's DM 100m offering was raised by DM 25m and an

issue for the Oesterreichische Kontrollbank was increased to DM 150m from DM 100m.

In the secondary market, prices of DM foreign bonds were usually firmer and the average yield fell from 8 1/2 per cent to 8 1/4 per cent over the month. A shortage of paper in the domestic market was a factor behind the price increases.

In Swiss francs the flow of new bonds continued with coupons of around 6 to 6 1/2 per cent for prime borrowers. Given the recent strength of the currency against the dollar, commentators feel that this rate should go below 6 per cent in the near future. Yields on the secondary market were little changed overall and were around the 5.7 level by the end of the month.

There were also issues in sterling, Austrian schillings, French francs, Canadian dollars and guilders over the month. In guilders, AmRo Bank arranged an issue for itself to test the market after February's disappointing Netherlands Credietbank issue which only attracted purchasers for Fl 25m of Fl 60m offered. The May issue went well and AmRo later successfully completed a Fl 150m issue for the European Investment Bank while F. van Lanschot Bankiers lead-managed its own Fl 50m private placement.

Scandinavian Bank, the UK consortium bank, was the first

to take advantage of a decision by the Bank of England to allow banks to raise sterling via floating rate notes. Some £20m was raised for ten years at the rate of 1/2 per cent over the three month sterling Libor. The issue, arranged by Morgan Stanley, differs from other FRNs in that it is pegged to a domestic rate—Libor—whereas normally Euro-FRNs are tied to an offshore rate.

On the secondary market the issue saw little demand and shed 2 1/2 points to 9 7/8 per cent on its first day of trading. The bank's name, however, is not well known within the Euro-bond market.

At the annual AIBD meeting in New York, Mr. Kurt Olav Orbeck of the Union Bank of Norway proposed that the board of the AIBD be given a mandate to prepare an in-depth study of the structural and practical problems of the primary and secondary Euro-bonds markets and to prepare a set of alternative solutions to these problems. The resolution was defeated but there is obvious frustration among Eurobond traders about the way large underwriting bond houses, which dominate the new issuing business, offer discounts in price to institutional clients. The meeting was notable for the attendance of more representatives from the primary market than in previous meetings.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 31st March, 1980. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

COMPILED FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS BY INTERBOND SERVICES LTD. ★ A subsidiary of data STREAM International

Creditanstalt-Market Makers in Austrian Schilling Bonds and International Bonds of Austrian Issuers.

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds*	Middle Market price (22.5.80)	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption (MD: Mandatory Drawings by lot PF: Purchase Fund SF: Sinking Fund)
Maturity up to 5 years				
8 1/2% Österreich 1973/III/B/82	101,—	8,87	7,92	20.11.74-82 at 102,5 to 102,5 MD
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	100,25	8,85	8,47	5. 3.76-83 at 100,0 to 101,0 MD
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	100,—	8,77	8,50	19.11.75-82 at 100,5 MD
8 1/2% Wien 1974/B/84	99,—	8,95	8,59	2. 7.75-84 MD
Maturity over 5 years				
8 1/2% Österreich 1976/S/86	100,75	9,01	8,44	20. 2.81-86 at 101,5 to 104,0 MD
8 1/2% Österreich 1977/II/B/86	96,50	9,01	8,29	15. 9.82-86 MD
7 3/4% Österreich 1978/IV/C/86	94,—	9,03	8,24	1. 9.86 MD
8 1/2% Arlberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	97,50	8,95	8,21	29. 7.80-85 MD
8 1/2% Energie 1975/II/B/+ S/85	101,50	9,00	8,37	29.10.79-85 at 103,5 MD
8 1/2% Energie 1977/S/II/B/86	96,50	9,00	8,29	4.10.82-86 MD
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1972/87 ohne Opt.	97,—	8,94	8,25	24.11.73-87 MD
8 1/2% VÖEST-Alpine 1977/B/86	96,25	9,05	8,31	15.11.82-86 MD
8 1/2% CA-BV 1975/II/B/85	100,—	8,95	8,50	11.11.76-85 at 101,0 to 101,5 MD
8 1/2% OKB Export 1978/II/C/86	95,50	8,99	8,38	20. 6.86 MD
8 1/2% Inter-Am. Development Bank 1976/86	96,—	9,23	8,33	17.12.81-86 MD

* Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.

Selected International Bonds of Austrian Issuers

US\$					
5 3/4% Alpine Montan 1965/85	91,50	7,76	6,28	15. 6.72-85	SF
6 5/8% Austrian Electricity 1966/86	98,75	7,07	6,71	1. 7.70-86	SF
6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 1967/82	98,75	7,72	6,84	1.10.71-82	SF
6 1/2% Republic of Austria 1964/84	95,50	8,85	6,28	31. 1.71-84	SF
6 3/4% Republic of Austria 1967/82	95,75	11,89	7,05	15. 3.72-82	SF
8 3/4% Republic of Austria 1976/90	85,75	11,24	10,20	15. 8.78-90	SF
8 1/4% Tauernautobahn 1977/87	87,—	11,44	9,48	15. 3.83-87	SF
DM					
5 3/4% Österreich 1978/90	84,—	8,44	6,85	1.11.85-90	
6 3/4% VÖEST 1977/89	91,25	8,46	7,40	1. 6.84-89	
7 1/2% Tauernkraftwerke 1968/83	100,—	7,00	7,00	1. 2.74-83	

For current prices and further information please contact:

For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger (Telephone: 6622/1701, 1707, Telex: 74261-63)
For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 136948)

Code for Reuter Monitor Securities Program: CA DA, CA DB



Creditanstalt

Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Schottengasse 6, A-1010 Vienna.



Cie. de Saint-Gobain-Pont-A-Mousson

has acquired an interest of approximately 20% in

olivetti

Ing. C. Olivetti & C., S.p.A.

The undersigned initiated this transaction and acted as advisor to both parties, acting as regards Olivetti in cooperation with Euromobiliare, S.p.A.

Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb

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June 9, 1980

هكذا من العمل

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

Issue	Mid-price	Current Yield	Yield to Maturity*	Lik*	Repayment by lot at par Sinking fund Purchase cost
84% Light-Services 77/82 (G)	97.75	8.70	9.91	1.75	1.382
84% Light-Services 78/88 (G)	88.62	8.83	9.83	1.91	1.586
84% Light-Services 80/86 (G)	97.75	8.87	10.11	1.53	1.61
84% Lofno Intert. 78/87	100.25	5.73	5.89	2.1	2.537
84% Lufthansa Int'l. 79/86 PP	93.50	8.93	7.94	6.91	1.386
84% Malaysia 72/84	95.85	9.24	9.17	2.25	1.840
84% Malaysia 77/85	87.00	9.47	9.77	5.25	1.885
84% Mefcom 75/84	101.00	9.16	8.67	2.11	2.31-340
84% Melroe 78/85	100.00	8.55	8.21	1.72	1.320-350
84% Manille 77/88	95.85	8.83	7.92	2.08	1.875-475
84% Manir. Hydro El. 72/87	89.07	6.98	7.31	7.00	1.75-875
84% Megal. Fin. Comp. 79/80	85.00	8.00	8.96	2.185-305	
84% Megal. Fin. Comp. 78/88	92.70	7.61	8.41	1.83	1.81-895
84% MEF 78/88	97.75	8.77	9.84	4.20	1.578-860
74% Mexico 58/84	101.00	6.93	6.58	2.05	2.175-845
74% Mexico 73/88	94.50	7.87	8.24	7.58	1.179-685
74% Mexico 75/82	98.00	7.84	7.78	3.08	1.875-845
84% Mexico 78/85	100.25	7.88	7.90	3.00	1.633
74% Mexico 77/84	86.75	8.01	8.75	4.00	1.634
84% Mexico 78/85	92.25	8.65	8.54	4.83	1.485
84% Mitsubishi Chemical 78/84	95.35	8.97	7.92	3.91	2.01-845
84% Mitsubishi Petro 78/83	81.75	6.27	6.76	3.25	1.833
74% Mitui Toatsu 76/81 PP	98.00	7.91	9.41	1.29	15.581
84% MOU 75/83	100.50	8.98	8.71	1.97	1.40-350
84% Montreal 68/88	94.25	4.43	8.58	4.56	1.470-380
84% Montreal 72/92	89.50	6.70	8.28	5.89	1.973-270
84% Montreal 73/93	90.00	7.50	8.02	13.00	1.74-935
84% Montreal 77/86	100.00	8.46	8.29	2.82	1.77-865
84% Montreal 78/87	93.50	8.53	8.74	3.12	1.65-865
74% Norco 75/85	95.25	7.22	7.71	4.42	1.115-845
74% Norco Denmark 73/88 (G)	93.25	7.51	8.17	8.08	1.775-835
84% Norc. K. Fin. 68/84 (G)	97.75	6.95	7.86	3.03	1.775-845
84% Naf. Mexico 77/86 PP (G)	96.00	8.93	9.13	3.50	1.125-835
74% Naf. Mexico 77/82 PP (G)	96.00	7.29	8.01	2.25	1.822
84% Naf. Mexico 77/84 (G)	100.10	8.74	8.70	3.75	1.384
84% Naf. Mexico 77/84 PP (G)	95.00	8.84	8.85	3.75	1.845
84% Nat. Bk. Hungary 75/81	95.00	8.99	9.94	1.08	1.781
84% Nat. Bk. Hungary 77/85	86.50	7.91	8.41	5.42	1.1155
84% Nat. Nederl. Fin. Cent. 79/88 PP	94.00	7.45	8.24	6.33	1.1058
84% Nat'l. West. Ind. 73/88	95.00	7.62	7.00	1.07	1.875-885
84% Nederl. Gasunie 75/85	102.75	7.79	7.20	4.98	1.123-36
84% Nederl. Gasunie 80/87	102.85	6.18	7.58	6.20	1.384-875
84% Newfoundland 75/85	95.00	7.92	7.42	4.20	1.875-845
84% Newfoundland 81/86	99.25	7.30	7.80	4.17	1.875-845
84% Newfoundland 71/88	100.25	7.98	7.80	3.56	1.877-895
84% Newfoundland 73/87	95.00	7.83	7.86	3.42	1.875-845
84% Newfoundland 75/88	93.75	8.83	7.98	7.84	1.481-685
84% New Zealand 58/84	97.00	6.86	8.49	2.12	1.275-840
84% New Zealand 71/86	100.25	7.48	7.96	3.31	1.577-860
84% New Zealand 72/87	95.00	8.29	8.30	3.51	1.875-870
84% New Zealand 75/86 PP	98.00	7.25	11.00	2.00	due 1.780
74% New Zealand 76/83	98.00	7.58	7.80	2.75	1.383
84% New Zealand 76/86	98.75	7.85	8.08	3.44	1.1153-860
84% New Zealand 76/84	98.00	7.84	7.84	3.58	1.584
84% New Zealand 78/86	87.25	6.02	1.10	5.75	1.386
84% New Zealand 78/86 PP	89.00	6.74	3.51	5.27	1.286

5 years maturity: 8.40%

6%	Norak Hydro 75/86	93.75	8.02	8.04	7.83	1.43	885
6%	Norak Hydro 77/88	93.75	7.20	7.74	8.00	1.62	895
6%	Norway 75/86	93.75	8.88	9.10	9.50	1.22	890
7%	Norway 76/81	98.50	7.11	8.75	9.02	1.51	881
7%	Norway 76/81	99.00	7.58	4.88	1.98	1.78	881
6%	Norway 77/82	98.25	6.82	7.68	1.58	1.12	882
6%	Norway 77/82	97.15	6.83	7.96	1.83	1.32	882
6%	Norway 78/83	98.75	6.82	7.88	1.58	1.12	882
42%	Norway 78/83	93.86	5.06	7.44	2.58	1.13	883
4%	Norway 78/83	90.75	4.82	8.15	2.83	1.43	883
6%	Norway 78/83	96.35	6.56	7.98	1.83	1.34	883
6%	Norway 80/85	99.50	7.54	7.62	4.62	1.35	885
74%	Norw. Mortgage 77/87	96.25	7.01	8.48	4.98	16.53	870
8%	Norw. Mortgage 77/87	96.25	7.01	8.48	4.98	16.53	870
7%	Norw. Mortgage 77/87	96.25	7.88	8.54	3.34	12.77	880
7%	Norw. Mortgage 77/87	96.25	7.27	7.95	7.50	11.78	875
6%	Occident, Int. Fin. 78/90	97.75	6.85	7.40	3.33	12.85	895
6%	Oceania 80/83	97.75	6.85	7.40	3.33	12.85	895
6%	Oester. Donauk. 59/84 (G)	97.00	6.18	7.69	1.22	1.25	840
6%	Oester. Donauk. 73/88 (G)	96.75	7.12	7.87	7.75	1.37	885
6%	Oester. Donauk. 75/85 (G)	96.75	7.12	7.87	7.75	1.37	885
7%	Oest. El. Wirtsch. 67/87 (G)	96.25	7.27	8.42	3.51	1.27	870
7%	Oest. El. Wirtsch. 76/83 PP (G)	96.50	7.29	8.33	3.54	16.23	883
5%	Oest. ind. Verw. 78/85 PP (G)	96.50	7.29	8.33	3.54	16.23	883
7%	Oest. K. 78/84 (G)	96.75	6.86	7.37	4.08	1.78	885
7%	Oest. Kontrollbank 76/83 PP (G)	95.75	7.37	6.89	3.50	12.83	883
6%	Oest. Kontrollbank 77/84 PP (G)	94.50	7.14	8.54	3.07	1.284	884
7%	Oest. Kontrollbank 77/84 PP (G)	94.50	7.14	8.54	3.07	1.284	884
6%	Oest. Kontrollbank 77/84 PP (G)	92.00	6.79	8.80	4.17	1.384	884
6%	Oest. Kontrollbank 77/85 PP (G)	94.50	7.34	8.61	5.42	1.11	885
5%	Oest. Kontrollbank 78/84 PP (G)	91.50	6.32	8.88	3.17	1.284	884
6%	Oest. Kontrollbank 78/85 PP (G)	90.25	6.78	8.12	5.54	16.23	883
6%	Oest. Kontrollbank 78/85 PP (G)	95.00	6.78	8.30	6.67	1.287	887
7%	Oest. Kontrollbank 78/85	95.50	7.72	8.07	9.33	10.89	889
8%	Oest. Kontrollbank 78/84 PP (G)	95.00	6.08	8.25	4.00	12.84	884
7%	Oest. Kontrollbank 78/84 PP (G)	95.00	6.08	8.25	4.00	12.84	884
8%	Oest. Kontrollbank 80/87 (G)	99.15	8.07	8.16	6.67	1.287	887
8%	Oest. Kontrollbank 80/85 PP (G)	90.50	8.82	8.34	4.79	1.385	885
5%	Oest. Kontrollbank 80/87 PP	96.50	7.49	9.51	3.25	11.82	882
5%	Oest. Länderb. 77/82	93.50	5.88	8.47	2.50	11.82	882
6%	Ontario 69/84	96.00	6.74	8.51	2.12	1.75	840
6%	Ontario 72/87	92.75	6.47	7.14	3.86	1.90	870
6%	Ontario 77/81	96.00	6.74	8.51	2.12	1.75	840
6%	Ontario Hydro 72/87	108.00	6.53	7.11	3.86	1.60	870
6%	Ontario Hydro 73/88	93.85	6.83	8.34	4.04	1.31	880
6%	Oslo 72/87	102.50	7.58	8.29	3.35	1.78	875
74%	Oslo 77/87	99.75	7.52	7.69	6.59	2.17	875
6%	Oslo 78/90	94.00	7.18	7.62	10.08	1.77	895
6%	Oslo 78/90	94.00	7.18	7.62	10.08	1.77	895
8%	Oslo 78/90	101.50	8.82	8.41	6.04	1.33	905
6%	Papua 73/88	95.25	7.09	7.50	8.09	1.78	885
6%	Parker-Hannifin 77/87 PP	92.00	7.35	8.82	3.82	1.38	885
6%	Parker-Hannifin 77/87 PP	95.50	7.85	8.48	6.06	7.85	870
6%	Pemak 75/83	100.80	8.87	8.41	3.50	12.83	883
7%	Pemak 77/84	94.50	7.41	8.58	4.25	1.984	884
7%	Pemak 78/85	92.75	7.55	8.89	5.28	1.98	885
7%	Petrobras 75/86	96.00	6.86	7.88	3.35	10.84	884
7%	Petrobras 76/88	85.85	8.14	13.13	6.24	10.84	880
7%	Petrobras 78/85	91.75	8.72	8.62	7.24	10.85	890
6%	Philippine 75/85	96.00	6.74	8.51	2.12	1.75	840
6%	Philippine 75/85	87.50	7.71	10.14	4.83	1.485	885
6%	Philips 75/81 PP	99.00	6.84	9.88	0.82	1.481	881
6%	Philips 75/81 PP	99.00	6.84	9.88	0.87	15.81	881
6%	Philips 75/81 PP	100.00	8.66	8.09	1.79	3.305	885
5%	PK-Banken 76/86	86.75	6.83	7.84	5.83	1.584	880
5%	Postbanknall 78/85 PP (G)	98.00	6.25	6.84	3.13	2.85	880
6%	Private Bank Corp. 71/83	93.00	6.25	6.84	3.13	1.884	884
6%	Pyhrn Autobahn 71/86 (G)	88.75	7.04	8.53	6.63	1.984	880
6%	Quebec 72/87	93.50	6.95	8.51	3.92	1.78	870
6%	Quebec 72/87	93.50	6.95	8.51	3.92	1.78	870
7%	Quebec 77/87	94.40	7.68	8.34	7.00	1.687	887
6%	Quebec 78/80	87.00	8.30	8.46	7.90	1.585	880
6%	Quebec Hydro B. 69/84	99.25	6.80	7.93	9.67	1.78	880
6%	Quebec Hydro B. 69/84	99.25	6.80	7.93	9.67	1.78	880
8%	Quebec Hydro B. 71/85	98.00	8.08	8.54	3.99	1.975	840
8%	Quebec Hydro B. 71/85	98.00	8.08	8.54	3.99	1.975	840
6%	Quebec Hydro B. 72/87	93.25	6.97	8.72	3.67	1.78	870

WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Yield Index							
May 31, 1980: 8.57%				(April 30, 1980: 9.19%			
6%	Quebec Hydro B. 73/88	93.35	6.86	8.50	7.40	1.375	880
6%	Quebec Hydro B. 73/88	90.00	7.22	8.24	7.21	16.570	880
6%	Quebec Hydro B. 77/87	89.50	5.88	8.17	7.50	12.877	887
6%	Queensland Air. 70/85	100.75	8.44	8.36	2.60	11.76	855
6%	Lawrenceville 78/85	99.00	8.55	8.68	2.60	11.76	855
6%	Read Paper 73/86	100.00	7.25	7.24	7.58	1.78	885
6%	Ranfa 76/82 (G)	99.00	8.58	9.03	2.06	1.78	885
8%	Ranfa 77/84 (G)	99.00	8.58	9.03	2.06	1.78	885
6%	Renne 75/81	90.50	7.83	8.26	3.83	1.484	884
6%	Renne 75/81	90.50	7.83	8.26	3.83	1.484	884
6%	Ricoh-Camp. 76/83	96.00	5.74	8.41	3.17	1.883	883
6%	Roy Lease 78/84 PP	96.00	7.03	7.88	4.33	10.84	884
6%	SAGA 80/83	96.00	7.85	8.88	6.88	1.78	885
6%	Saga Petrokemij 77/87 PP	96.00	7.81	8.25	7.06	1.783	875
7%	Sandvik 72/87	96.75	7.16	7.59	3.50	1.78	870
7%	Sandvik 75/85	102.25	8.05	8.24	2.67	1.283	883
7%	Sandvik 76/84	97.75	7.25	7.97	3.50	1.78	885
6%	Shell Int'l. 72/87	94.75	6.15	6.82	6.83	1.48	875
6%	Shell Int'l. 77/88	94.50	7.14	7.84	6.59	1.385	890
7%	Siemens Europa 69/81	100.00	7.04	7.34	1.43	11.70	815
6%	Singapore 72/85	97.75	7.22	8.78	2.06	1.78	825
6%	Singapore 77/83	94.75	6.86	8.60	2.82	1.583	883
6%	Sin Kwa 70/85	100.25	8.48	8.56	2.36	1.675	880
6%	S.N.C.F. 69/83 (G)	97.85	6.66	7.30	3.33	10.72	835
7%	Soc. Dev. Reg. 76/85 (G)	97.25	7.71	8.41	3.58	1.48	880
7%	Soc. Mar. 78/82 PP (G)	97.25	7.71	8.41	3.58	1.48	880
9%	Soc. Mar. Fin. 75/83 PP	100.00	9.00	8.98	1.89	1.384	884
6%	Sorrento 73/84 PP	93.50	6.98	7.38	3.63	16.733	820
6%	South-Africa 69/84	97.25	6.94	8.39	3.82	1.579	830
6%	South-Africa 71/85	100.50	8.68	8.48	6.80	16.184	880
6%	South-Africa 72/87	96.50	8.03	8.65	4.62	1.78	845
7%	South-Africa 77/81	94.00	7.45	8.10	7.42	11.775	865
8%	South-Air. Broad. 76/81 PP (G)	88.00	6.16	10.81	0.76	11.77	865
6%	South-Air. Oil Fund 76/81 PP (G)	97.00	7.15	8.35	1.42	11.78	875
74%	South-Air. Oil Fund 76/82 PP (G)	95.00	8.16	10.42	2.17	11.81	881
6%	South-Air. Oil Fund 78/82 PP (G)	94.50	8.20	10.33	2.29	16.11	881
8%	South-Air. Oil Fund 79/83 PP (G)	95.50	8.23	10.57	2.42	1.882	882
6%	South-Air. Oil Fund 79/84 PP (G)	95.50	8.23	10.57	2.42	1.882	882
6%	South-Air. Railway 73/88 (G)	95.50	7.85	8.29	8.00	1.675	885
54%	South-Air. Railway 75/80 (G)	99.95	8.26	10.69	0.08	due 1.780	880
6%	South-Air. Railway 77/80 PP (G)	98.50	8.36	17.53	0.17	1.875	880

- "Life" and "Maturity" appear in years and decimals of years and are in this context calculated as follows:
 - to final maturity in case of a lump-sum repayment
 - to final maturity in case of a sinking fund issue, whenever the quoted price is below 100
 - to final maturity in case of a sinking fund issue, whenever the quoted price is above 100
 - to average life in case the bond issue provides for mandatory drawings by lot or per cent
 - to average Placement (the smallest denomination may be larger than the usual DM 1,000 of the issue)

For current prices and further information call

Düsseldorf	Telephone 8263122	International Bond
Westdeutsche Landesbank	Telex 8581882	Trading Dept.
Girozentrale		
P.O. Box 1128	Telephone 8263741	Institutional Investors Dep.
4000 Düsseldorf 1/FRG	Telex 8581882	

% Gen. Zbk. Vienna 77/87	89.75	6.68	8.42	5.42	1.12.83—87D
% Giroz. Vienna 74/80 PP	100.12	9.74	8.25	0.50	1.12.80
					11.81

Gen. Zbt. Vienna 71/87	89.75	6.89	8.42	5.42	1.12-83-87D
Groz. Vienna 74/80 PP	100.12	9.74	8.25	5.00	1.12-80
Groz. Vienna 75/81 PP	99.00	9.74	8.25	5.00	1.12-81
Groz. Vienna 76/82	99.00	7.40	7.92	3.42	1.11-83
Groz. Vienna 77/83	99.00	5.89	6.82	2.33	1.10-82
Groz. Vienna 78/84	99.00	5.89	6.82	2.33	1.10-83
Groz. Vienna 79/84 PP	95.00	7.24	8.32	4.21	15.84
Groz. Vienna 80/84 PP	101.75	8.72	8.33	6.99	1.87
1. S. 56	99.00	7.24	7.75	5.00	1.87-83D
Grand Metrop. Fin. 77/84	99.00	7.37	8.46	4.17	1.81-84
Guest-Koen-Nebel 76/83	99.00	6.09	8.43	2.92	2.53-83
Kernsattel 77/82	99.00	7.24	7.08	5.00	1.76-87S
Hazama-Gum 76/81 PP	98.50	8.12	9.84	1.00	1.51
Helsinki 80/82	97.85	1.15	7.35	3.00	1.82
Hatchi Cable 71/82 PP	97.00	7.25	7.00	5.00	1.76-83S
Hatchi Shipping 76/83	91.70	7.22	8.54	3.54	16.12-83
IAKW Vienna 75/85 (G)	100.00	8.88	8.34	5.84	1.56-85D
IBM 80/84	100.00	10.00	5.83	3.00	1.46-86
Iceland 89/84	97.75	7.42	8.08	3.22	5.73-84-85
Iceland 77/82	97.00	8.18	8.18	3.83	1.76-82S
I C Int'l 72/82	90.25	7.20	7.79	11.75	1.76-92S
I C Int'l 76/85	98.50	7.61	7.83	5.47	1.12-84-88D
I C Int'l 77/85	98.50	7.61	7.83	5.37	1.12-85
ICPU 76/85	96.75	7.27	8.99	5.15	1.77-91D
Imatrah Voima 72/87 (G)	99.50	8.12	8.47	6.58	1.76-87S
Ironsteel 77/82	99.00	8.12	8.33	10.04	1.82
Ind. Dev. C. South-Afr. 76/82 PP (G)	99.00	8.07	10.13	1.82	1.52
Ind. Dev. C. South-Afr. 78/83 PP (G)	97.00	8.25	9.15	3.08	1.76-83
Indust. Jap. 76/81	99.00	8.12	8.12	8.12	1.82
Indust. Bk. Japan 76/84	90.00	5.56	6.33	3.58	1.76

May 31, 1980: 8.57% (April 30, 1980: 9.19%)

64%	Quebec Hydro E	73/78	93.35	8.86	8.50	4.04	1.378-88D
64%	Quebec Hydro E	71/87	80.00	7.22	8.40	7.21	18.897P
64%	Quebec Hydro E	71/87	80.00	7.22	8.40	7.21	12.727P
64%	Queensland A	70/85	100.75	8.46	8.36	2.80	1.115-85S
54%	Kaarekrukkil 73/88 (G)	66.80	6.68	8.84	5.75	1.494-88D	
54%	Raad Rupp 73/88	66.80	6.68	7.76	7.88	1.179-88S	
64%	Nentia 76/82 (G)	99.00	5.55	8.03	2.08	1.478-87D	
8%	Nentia 77/84 (G)	87.25	8.23	8.36	3.83	1.484	
7%	Nentia 79/87 (G)	50.50	7.73	8.89	7.00	2.897	
54%	Nicholson 76/83	99.00	5.71	8.17	3.11	1.478-87D	
64%	Roy Lease 75/84 PP	96.00	7.03	7.86	4.33	110.84	
7%	SAAB 71/88	99.00	7.83	8.12	6.00	1.677-86S	
74%	Saga Patahumi 77/89 PP	99.00	7.01	8.25	7.06	1.783-87S	
64%	Sandvik 72/82 PP	98.75	7.55	8.25	3.17	1.673-87D	
64%	Sandvik 75/83	102.25	8.05	8.24	2.67	1.283	
7%	Sanko Steamship 77/84	94.50	7.30	8.32	3.67	1.284	
64%	Shell Int'l 77/89	97.50	6.92	8.25	3.83	1.284	
64%	Shell Int'l 77/89	98.50	7.14	7.84	6.59	1.285-89D	
7%	Siemens Europa 68/81	89.00	7.04	7.34	1.42	111.70-81S	
7%	Singapore 72/82	99.00	7.22	7.78	2.06	1.779-82S	
64%	Singapore 72/82	99.00	7.22	7.78	2.82	1.779-82S	
64%	Sin Kwin 70/85	100.25	8.48	8.56	3.26	1.676-85D	
64%	S.N.C.F. 68/83 (G)	97.85	6.66	7.30	3.33	110.72-83S	
74%	Soc. Dev. Reg. 76/85 (G)	97.25	7.71	8.41	3.56	1.480-88D	
64%	Soc. Dev. Reg. 77/82 PP (G)	84.00	7.44	9.24	7.97	111.83	
8%	Soc. Mar. Fina 75/83 PP	100.00	8.00	8.98	1.99	1.384	
64%	South Africa 66/84	93.50	6.69	8.38	3.82	1.679-82D	
64%	South Africa 66/84	97.25	6.94	7.73	3.83	15.82-82D	
64%	South Africa 70/85	100.50	8.48	8.48	2.80	16.184	
74%	South Africa 71/88	94.85	8.65	8.42	1.62	1.473-84S	
64%	South Africa 73/82	94.00	7.45	8.10	7.42	1.473-84S	
8%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 76/81 PP (G)	98.00	8.16	10.81	0.75	111.77-86S	
74%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 76/81 PP (G)	98.00	7.55	10.38	1.42	111.76-87S	
74%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 76/81 PP (G)	97.00	8.09	9.48	1.48	1.381	
74%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 76/82 PP (G)	97.00	8.16	10.42	2.17	1.381	
74%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/82 II PP (G)	94.50	8.20	10.33	2.29	16.11-81	
8%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/83 PP (G)	95.50	8.28	8.57	3.42	1.882	
74%	South-Afr. Oil Fund 79/84 PP (G)	93.50	8.29	9.89	3.76	16.82	
74%	South-Afr. Railway 73/88 (G)	96.50	7.86	8.29	6.00	1.676-88S	
74%	South-Afr. Railway 73/88 (G)	96.50	7.86	10.69	0.08	due	
64%	South-Afr. Railway 77/80 PP (G)	98.50	8.38	17.53	0.17	1.675-80D	
8%	South-Afr. Railway 78/81 PP (G)	97.00	8.25	13.43	0.59	2.181	
74%	South-Afr. Railway 78/82 PP (G)	96.00	8.00	10.13	1.92	1.582	
64%	South-Afr. Railway 78/82 PP (G)	96.00	8.47	10.10	1.92	1.582	
8%	South-Afr. Railway 78/83 PP (G)	94.80	8.47	10.04	3.25	1.783	
74%	South-Afr. Railway 78/83 PP (G)	93.50	8.29	10.01	3.50	112.93	
74%	Steel Seed, E. 73/88 (G)	33.00	7.50	8.20	7.67	1.279-86S	
64%	Spain 76/83	94.00	7.23	8.44	4.17	1.894	
6%	Spain 76/83	94.00	7.14	8.90	7.82	1.588	
6%	Spanish Bank 68/90 PP	89.00	6.74	7.97	5.11	16.851-80D	
74%	Standard Imp & Exp 78/82 PP	87.75	7.55	8.91	2.17	1.882	
6%	Stand. Bank 76/83 PP	87.75	7.55	8.91	2.17	1.888	
6%	Statoil 76/83	88.25	6.80	7.99	8.25	1.378-86S	
64%	Statoil 78/85 (G)	90.75	7.16	8.00	8.75	1.388-86S	

WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations (Continued)

Issue	Par	Yield	Yield to Maturity	Life	Redemption
7% Staatsanleihe 77/85	100.00	7.25	8.03	4.25	1.322-850
10% Staatsanleihe 74/89	100.00	8.71	8.87	3.87	1.478-870
8% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820
7% Staatsanleihe 75/82	100.00	8.44	8.08	2.08	1.732-820



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It will be published on the following dates in the remainder of 1980.

- Monday 14th July
- Tuesday 12th August
- Monday 15th September
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Quotations & yields as at 31st May, 1980

SOCIETE GENERALE De BANQUE
BANQUE GENERALE Du LUXEMBOURG

Fund	31/5/80	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date	1/6/77 High	31/5/80 Low	1/6/77 High	31/5/80 Low
Rentinvest	LuxFr 761	LuxFr 1000	9.03	20/11/77	LuxFr 860	LuxFr 742	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 742	LuxFr 742
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1357	LuxFr 1000	(Capitalisation)		LuxFr 1430	LuxFr 1321	LuxFr 1430	LuxFr 1217	LuxFr 1217

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AIBD

EXPLANATORY NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

SPECIAL REFERENCES

- General—attached to name of borrower
D = Domestic Management Group
L = Bondholders option to redeem loan prior to maturity or to extend maturity
MC = Private or semi-private placement
W = Principal/Interest payable in more than two currencies
W = Withholding taxes (with percentage rate %)
WW = With warrants
XW = Ex warrants

2. E/DM Issues

The figures shown are the fixed E/DM parties which prevail over the lives of the issues.

3. Floating rate issues

The figures given are the minimum coupon rate; % margin above LIBOR.

4. Attached to maturity description

S = Semi-annual payments
Q = Quarterly payments

5. Convertible issues

The share price is always denominated in the same currency as the convertible price. Please note that where the premium exceeds 200% no fig. is shown in premium/discount column.

NAME OF BOND	CONVERTIBLE INTO
American Tobacco Int.	American Tobacco Int.
Asia Navigation Int.	Asia Navigation Int.
Bankers Int. (Lux.)	Bankers Int. (Lux.)
Brooklyne-Hale Secs	Brooklyne-Hale Secs
Burnham Oil	Burnham Oil
Champion Oil O/S	Champion Oil O/S
Champion Oil	Champion Oil
Continental Hotels	Continental Hotels
Int. Standard Elec.	Int. Standard Elec.
Int. Standard Elec.	Int. Standard Elec.
Int. Standard Elec.	Int. Standard Elec.
Int. Standard Elec.	Int. Standard Elec.
Int. Standard Elec.	Int. Standard Elec.

The following international convertible issues have fixed rates of currency conversion:

COUNTRY	ISSUE/Coupon/Maturity	EXCHANGE RATE
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00
FRANCE	1980 D.F. 5.344	100.00

6. Denomination of non-dollar bonds

Euro-denominated — all denominated in Euros
Sterling denominated — all denominated in Sterling
Yen denominated — all denominated in Yen
Other currencies — as indicated

7. Yield calculations

All yields are calculated on annual basis, i.e. a 10% bond yielding at 10% per annum would yield 10% per annum.

8. Other notes

The amounts shown as remaining outstanding are as at 31st May 1980.

9. Unit of account bonds

The new unit of account formula applies to issues from 1973 onwards.

THE ARTS

Television

The problem with Brass Tacks

by CHRIS DUNKLEY

Last year when BBC's current affairs discussion series *Brass Tacks* began mixing its cocktail to a new formula, doubts about its journalism were noted here and it was suggested that a way out should be kept on it. Without seeing every edition since then, I have watched quite enough for that early unease to be increased. The structure of the programme now seems to have been standardised: we are given an introductory film on the week's topic—schools, the Cruise missile, motorcycling or whatever. Then we hear a discussion directed from a Manchester studio, containing a number of "experts" as well as the chairman, and into this discussion are injected the opinions of some members of the public who have a special interest in the matter and who have joined an outside broadcast unit in a school, a farm, or some such place. Sometimes a politician adds his two pounds-worth from a London studio.

Given that the series is a Manchester production it is fairly clear why it may be thought necessary occasionally to put a politician "on line" from London. But the reason for banishing the public to a school or a barn remote from the studio has never been explained in any of the editions I have seen. It is just one of the factors which contribute to the sense of alienation and annoyance which so often emanates from this series.

At the end of each 50-minute programme the chairman says words to the effect that: "We've only been able to cover the main points of course and present a cross section of views, but you'll be able to hear more and offer your own opinion in the continuing debate on local radio, or you can write to *Brass Tacks Return Call* (a 10-minute programme screened late on Saturday nights)."

Evidently the idea is that the television programme should be the central element in some sort of national debate intended to spread opinions and enlightenment and, above all, "let the people have their say." Yet judging from what one hears during the television shows and on the radio programmes and from irate viewers and listeners (and even participants) afterwards it is obvious that there are a lot who do not feel that these admirable ideals have been fulfilled at all.

On the contrary, it seems that among those who are really expert on the subject under review, many believe that

instead of helping to spread understanding or to solve problems, *Brass Tacks* serves rather to infuriate people like themselves and to misinform others. Scarcely an episode goes by without one of the better informed participants pointing out how misleading the introductory film was.

A more honest and accurate summing-up from the chairman would be: "Well there you are, we've presented a lot of statistics and observations, most of them previously published elsewhere, some of them accepted as reliable but some of them already discredited—though our over-worked researchers didn't realise that. We've infuriated people in the business by giving them too little time to present their cases properly. In this we've been entirely even-handed and managed to annoy those who pro just as much as those who are anti."

Now a lot more time will be consumed by local radio phone-in shows. Only a fraction of the many who try ringing will actually get through and of those who do only a small proportion will go on to be heard on air. Of those a large number will simply want to correct what they see as misapprehensions circulated by this programme. Others will just want to vent the irritation we've caused.

Any national debate seems to consist in large degree of *Brass Tacks* building up a furious head of steam amongst those who have always known more than they do about the subject, and then providing little valves dotted around the country to release a small amount of it. The rest gets converted into an increasingly widespread bitterness and cynicism about broadcasting in general, television in particular, and specifically allow current affairs investigations.

No doubt the problem facing *Brass Tacks* is the same problem that faces all series of this sort: that the number of viewers willing to sit down and watch more weighty and serious current affairs programmes is very small—almost absurdly small. It must seem from within the industry—when compared to the numbers willing to watch *It's a Knockout* or *Coronation Street*. It is the misfortune of current affairs journalists in television that, unlike their counterparts working on serious newspapers or magazines, they operate inside organisations which seek to appeal in other departments not to a few



Scene from a Brass Tacks programme on hill farming communities

hundred thousands but to tens of millions (occasionally, as with the *Dallas* episode involving the shooting of JR, managing to attract as much as half the population, 26m) so that, internally, invidious comparisons tend to be made.

All sorts of schemes and stratagems have consequently been developed to protect serious current affairs series and to maximise their audiences. *Panorama*, which last week provided an excellent if terrifying and stomach-churning account of preparations for chemical warfare, is "hammocked" between the *Dukes of Hazzard* and the *Nine O'Clock News* for instance.

World In Action, which after all these years is still the sharpest and most incisive of BBC's current affairs series—thanks not least to the discipline of working habitually within a 27-minute slot—is transmitted opposite *Panorama* thus providing both series with a degree of protection, though the major beneficiary is no doubt *The Waltons* on BBC2. This week *World In Action* at last managed to transmit its programme featuring Jack Kane talking about the leakage of secret information in Hong Kong, Granada having (presumably) made enough cosmetic changes to allow the Indepen-

dent Broadcasting Authority to save face following its initial suppression of the programme.

Above all, of course, in their fight for existence, current affairs series keep on going back to the topics which their producers believe will pull in the punters, the "sexy" subjects such as drug abuse which *TV Eye*, *Man Alive* and others seem to do over and over again even though misuse of drugs results in far fewer deaths than, say, drowning accidents.

There is also a popular, though I believe mistaken, belief that viewers are fascinated by the police and by alleged police misdeeds. As a result it has been impossible recently to have the television on for more than about ten minutes without being faced by a set of cardboard policemen carrying cardboard truncheons advancing on a cardboard cut-out of the late Blair Peach.

One reason for such repetition is that our broadcasting system consists not of two programme organisations, BBC and ITV, but of the BBC and 15 commercial programme companies any two or three of which at any given time may be working on near identical productions. Perish the thought that the IBA should act as a clearing station to prevent such duplication. That would be interfering in programmes.

Most popular topic of all in the last eight years—especially on any series to do with commerce or industry, though the subject has also been approached from every other conceivable point of view ranging from the skies to the ocean bed, and under every heading from fire risk to unions via the microchip—has been North Sea oil and especially the rigs themselves. There is nothing the average television reporter likes more than to take a trip in a helicopter and deliver a piece to camera with the western sun glinting brightly off his hard hat while a couple of roustabouts fling chain round the drill in the background.

Perhaps Trevor Philpott's stylistically old-fashioned but nonetheless engrossing series *Inside A Multinational* (BP) will put an end to all that, but I doubt it. Equally I doubt whether the thoroughness and depth of preparation for Philpott's series will ever be taken as an example by *Brass Tacks* which operates on a different time scale and in an entirely different manner, kicking up spray all over the shallow end.

It is clear that the rules in the single-handed transatlantic yacht race need tightening up. Letting in all those new fangled multi-hulls was bad enough, but according to Peter Woods on BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* on Monday, one of the competitors who had got into difficulties in mid-ocean was picked up by helicopter from his "monorail".

Bath Festival

Purcell at Wells

The second Festival visit, on Saturday, to Wells Cathedral brought a Purcell programme with John Eliot Gardiner, conducting the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists. Two Odes and Queen Mary's Funeral Music provided a memorable evening even if the forces used were not perfectly suited to the considerable space.

Wells is better than most large churches for mixed choral and instrumental sound—it was not reverberance so much as remoteness that favoured the slow-moving funeral music (given with the intense fervour Mr. Gardiner and his choir bring to the Baroque period), with the inexorably rising, grinding chromatics, more than the frequently quick-moving, varied Odes.

In the Odes, at least from the back of the nave, one felt a simple scarcity of volume. In the small instrumental suddenly chilly evening suggesting cold lips and fingers. But neither of the two counter-

tenors, Charles Brett and Ashley Stafford, were projecting strongly enough. The soprano, Patricia Kwella, deputising for Jennifer Smith, had her moments in the melancholy "Bid the Virtues" that contrasts so effectively with the general bustle of the 1694 Birthday Ode. Distance dulled most of the solo singing in the bigger Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day of 1692, though the basses Stephen Varcoe and David Wilson-Johnson, held their own and Paul Elliott fully justified the allocation of "His Nature's Voice" to a high tenor.

On Sunday in the Bath Assembly Rooms, transatlantic brilliance illuminated the Festival's closing concert. In the morning harpsichord recital Igor Kipnis sped like a kingfisher through the fast movements of Bach's French Suite No. 5 in G and his Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue. The first half was all French with an exhilarating Chaconne by Duphy and, in the F sharp minor, *Ordre de Couperin* (No.

26), a welcome point of repose in the penultimate number, "L'Epineuse." In the earlier movements of the suite ornament tended to clog rhythm.

More dazzlement in the evening from the Beaux Arts Trio—their second Festival appearance. Not only brilliance, of course, Haydn's A major Trio (No. 18) had a breathtaking blend of wit and expression, both equally intense. Then a superbly well-groomed effusion of early-Romantic emotions in Mendelssohn's D minor Trio—all the same one hopes they will not be tempted to play the Scherzo faster. How does the pianist Menahem Pressler manage such faultless accuracy when his eyes are darting conspiratorially to his colleagues, as though expecting the violinist Isidore Cohen to suddenly vanish? Bernard Greenhouse, the imperturbable cellist offered perfectly controlled (and perfectly tuned) moulding of the profound richness of melody in Schubert's E flat Trio, reticence making the often lacerating sadness the more moving.

RONALD CRICHTON

Arts Theatre, Cambridge

Footlights Revue

The Footlights have been putting on a show during the Cambridge May week since 1883: it would be diverting to hop back through time for a dip into some of those entertainments. To some extent you can this week for the current offering, *Electric Voodoo*, has a quaintly old-fashioned feel to it.

The opening number, in which the "back stage crew" discover that the actors have gone missing and decide to put on the show themselves, could come out of 1930, although getting the ice-cream girl on stage to join them has a nicely topical ring. Whether this song and dance routine is a parody

or not, it is unfortunately one of the best things in a rather tame evening.

This probably has nothing to do with the fact that four of the six-strong cast are girls, while the two men seem particularly youthful. Perhaps there is nothing to be funny about at university these days. Familiar targets—weight-watching classes; party gossip, anti-luvian judges—are rolled out for light mockery, but there is not a hint of the anarchic, the surreal, or even the witty. A big problem is punch lines; they barely exist, and when a nuclear bomb blast is used

twice in succession to end a sketch tend to curdle.

But no doubt John Gleese, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller, Clive James, David Frost, Eleanor Bron, et alia, looked just as callow on these same boards, and few years as BBC trainees will no doubt add the character missing now. Already the personalities seemed to have more potential than the material and Sandi Toksvig, a bright-eyed pocket blonde, and Sheila Hyde, who matches her well, being very tall and very black, could make the programme notes of ten years time.

ANTHONY THORNCROFT

Wigmore Hall

Victor Danchenko

Mr. Danchenko opened his London debut on Monday with Brahms's C minor Scherzo (from the "F.A.E." Sonata), one of the illustrious fragments of music, and superbly abetted by Paul Ostrowsky—they're both Russian emigrants—lost no time showing us what a first-rate violinist he is. The piece took fire, an ideal beneficiary for Danchenko's big shining tone and big technique. No less suitable was the D minor sonata of Brahms which followed: its last two movements particularly notable for expert rhythmic co-ordination and gradation of

tone, but the whole distinguished by violinistic largesse and by interesting accompanimental points from Mr. Ostrowsky.

In Bach's D minor Chaconne for violin solo, though, one felt that Danchenko's technical prowess, sensitive as it is, was being asserted too monolithically. He does have an ample expressive range but it remains within the limits of the emphatic. (Occasionally small frictions were perceptible on this account with Mr. Ostrowsky.) The result in the Bach was to introduce a rather Brahmsian

impetuosity (not to mention an unwanted freedom with tempi).

Danchenko was very happy in the second sonata of Prokofiev: every facet of his virtuosity could be allowed to gleam. His deft harmonics and mischief in the second (Presto) movement evoked spontaneous applause; his brilliant flourishes and the richness of the ensemble in the finale were captivating. Not captivated were the essential qualities of the music itself: tiresome wrong-note limpidity in the Andante, sickly classicising in the Moderato.

PAUL DRIVER

Broadway

Tony Awards by FRANK LIPSUS

Though meant to look like a tribute to Broadway, the Tony Awards are more like Broadway's tribute to television. Theatre openings in April and May are eloquent testimony to the powers of the Tonys. All the shows that were being pulled together out of town rushed to get to New York before the May 10 deadline for Tony eligibility. By the beginning of April, the League of New York Theatres and Producers, which assigns opening nights to keep order on Broadway, loses track of what is opening and what is waiting in the wings. By the end, there are more possible openings than available nights. Thanks to the Tonys and their live television broadcast, Broadway enjoys an exciting end of season spectacle

with some recognised successes strewn among the quick closings.

Morning's at Seven, a play that failed on Broadway in 1939, opened again late this season and this time was greeted enthusiastically, winning a Tony for its director, Vivian Matalon. Paul Osborn's story of a 40-year-old innocent who finally proposes to his girlfriend after a 12-year courtship questions whether innocence is virtuous or silly. In 1939, it was probably still a virtue and therefore not to be tampered with. But by 1980, the back garden setting of a midwestern town is vintage Americana and David Rounds, who won a Tony for the role of the innocent, has the chance to embody one of its long lost

virtues. Mr. Osborn's script is also vintage craftsmanship as delivered by the exuberant acting of not only Mr. Rounds but also of Maureen O'Sullivan, Nancy Marchand and Maurice Copeland as assorted back-steps relatives.

A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine made a late-season transatlantic trip from London to win its director, Tommy Tune, a Tony for best choreography along with his collaborator, Tommie Walsh. Mr. Tune changed the first act from a simple revue sketch into the kind of stage show that used to precede first-run film screenings. A take-off on the Rockettes in the first act includes a Jeanette MacDonald lookalike singing an insulting song to a Nelson Eddy cardboard cutout as homage to the old days at the movies, the show had an "unkle stage" above the heads of the actors, where two actors, seen from the waist to the feet, did the steps and wore the shoes of old recognisable favourites like Fred Astaire and Mickey Mouse.

Since most of the Broadway musicals this season were revivals, any new musical had a good shot at a Tony, thus encouraging a number of musical openings at the tail-end of the season. The season's last official opening was *Barnum*, a loud and brassy circus of humbug that won a Tony for its tireless and nimble star, Jim Dale.

As an evening's entertainment, the Tony Awards have some high spots, such as the scenes from the nominations for best musical of the year. Otherwise the show is just two parades of nervous people, one embarrassing themselves in presenting the awards and the other, in accepting them. The current fashion for thanking everyone, from agent to director, reduces the glamour of the event to a contest of who can be the most ingratiating winner. It used to be that a Tony helped establish careers: now it seems to work only if the right people are mentioned on camera.

The Tonys inherited the mode of false modesty from the much

more competitive and vain world of the Oscars. But it has no one else to blame for the time-wasting and uninteresting stories that award presenters told about being an understudy. This was to be the theme of the evening. But besides forcing the show to run 22 minutes over time, the stories had nothing to do with the awards being presented and, as a whole, emphasised the grossness when the whole idea is to enjoy the glitter. A couple of awards had to be bypassed altogether, including two special awards, one to the Goodspeed Opera Company in Connecticut, which has supplied a number of musical revivals to Broadway, and the Actors Theatre of Louisville, whose annual playwrighting contest has become an important source of new American plays.

Thanks to the national audience of 25m, the Tony Awards show gives every American the name of at least two shows they should want to see this year. Ernie, the musical winner, was the season opener in September. At the time it was not appreciated by the critics and audiences consisted to a large extent of teenagers with no interest in the controversy about idolising a dictatrix. Everyone else had also forgotten about the controversy by the time Ernie walked off with seven Tonys, including best musical actress for Patti Lupone.

The winning play, *Children of a Lesser God*, came from the Mark Taper Forum, an innovative Los Angeles house that has contributed a number of plays to Broadway in recent seasons. This play takes the extremely overworked women's lib theme and puts it in the context of a real struggle for dignity over physical impairment. The romance between a teacher of the deaf and his pupil uses every hackneyed phrase of women's cries to be treated equal, but it has to be done in sign language because the woman is deaf, and has to be translated on stage by her teacher so the audience can understand.

A. T.

Maureen O'Sullivan (left) and Teresa Wright in *Morning's at Seven*

Committee formed to promote the arts

Mr. Norman St. John Stevas, the Minister for the Arts, is intensifying his campaign to get industry to support the arts by forming a committee to advise him on a co-ordinated campaign to drive home the message of the mutual benefits for both sides from business backing for the arts.

The committee will be chaired by the Minister, and includes

Lady Hartwell, Countess Spencer, Lord Goodman, Lord Pritchard, Sir Charles Forte, Mr. Alastair Burnet, Mr. Clive Jenkins and more. The Minister hopes that a campaign involving leaflets, conferences, seminars, advertisements, articles, research and other devices will get a quick response from industry and that the £4m-£5m that industry puts into the arts will be doubled within a year.

The committee will work closely with the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, which recently received £25,000 from the Government for promotional purposes. Mr. St. John Stevas said yesterday: "Extra money for the arts can only come, in current conditions, from the private sector." He had been encouraged by the response from the chairman

of the clearing banks who he has approached in recent weeks with the idea of a Clearing Bank Foundation to help the arts, to be set up in addition to their existing sponsorship. The first fruits of the new drive is a booklet "The Arts are your Business" which sets out the benefits for companies in arts sponsorship.

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Still waiting for the gun

ON THE FACE of it the May banking figures, and the official forecast of a two per cent increase in the broadly-defined money supply, Sterling M3, are bad enough to rule out any immediate hope of a fall in interest rates. The Prime Minister, indeed, more or less conceded as much in her comments at Question Time. All the same the markets, which had been rising strongly on the hope of early relief, suffered only a modest setback yesterday; they seem convinced that this must be almost the final deferral of their hopes—and indeed the Government's hopes.

Optimism

This hope is based partly on early indications of much better figures to come for June; but the market is not simply counting chickens which must remain in the incubator for some days yet. Some of the details of the May figures, together with the Government's admitted anxiety to cut rates, and its growing determination to ensure that the public sector does not prevent a cut, offer firmer grounds for optimism. Broadly, the figures show a picture of an established recession, with bank lending temporarily sustained at much the same underlying level by involuntary borrowing. The very sharp swing back into deficit in the Central Government accounts is by contrast disturbing; but this series is notoriously volatile.

Borrowing

Borrowing by the food and drink and the vehicle industries, for example, has accelerated sharply; this reflects the fall in final sales—and in the food industry, the sharp cut in ordering by retailers—which has been reflected in the last week or two by announcements of short-term and redundancies. Industry is now struggling to reduce stocks; but the figures cover a

month in which the sharp drop in sales which has made this effort so urgent was only becoming apparent, and in some cases stocks rose steeply above planned levels.

Private credit demand, then, can be expected to ease quickly as stock levels are brought under control—and as some companies take advantage of lower interest rates abroad to finance their international operations. However, the unfunded borrowing of the public sector is an equally important component of monetary growth, and it seems likely that it is the public sector performance which explains why forecast monetary growth is nearly half a point higher than the rise in the eligible liabilities of the banks.

The bad news here is that spending seems to be higher than expected—though the details of local authority spending, the likely culprit, are still obscure. The good news, expressed clearly in the Chancellor's weekend remarks on control of local spending, is that the Government is determined to tackle this problem directly, rather than impose a further penalty on industry.

Exchange rate

The market's persistent optimism, then, does not seem too unreasonable—though any conclusion at this stage must be highly tentative. The full money supply figures next week, which will complete the picture of the banking system and supply details of the distortions involved, will be of unusual interest. If they show that other measures of the money supply are subdued, and that the downturn in domestic credit expansion has been maintained—allowing for the timing of gift sales—the case for lower rates before long will look much stronger.

Meanwhile the behaviour of the exchange markets, confirming that the exchange rate is indeed responsive to interest rates, North Sea oil notwithstanding, will only increase industry's impatience to hear the starting gun. The relief cash flow, when it comes, will be reinforced, and this double effect may indeed ease the demand for credit in its turn. We may yet find, as the Americans have, that when the tide turns, it turns sharply.

Spain at the EEC door

SINCE THE beginnings of the European Community in the 1950s, France has played a predominant role in the vetting, and often vetoing, of new applications for membership. Few people in Britain need reminding of that right, enshrined in a Rome Treaty rule, that the club can only be extended with the unanimous consent of its existing members. Britain's role in vetoing the entry of Spain for well over a decade. Now there are increasingly strong signs that the French Government is having second thoughts about the entry of the country that General de Gaulle regarded as the third of the three great West European nations alongside France and Britain—Spain.

Portugal

President Giscard d'Estaing has not vetoed Spain's entry in the same way in which the General did that of Britain. Having supported early Spanish entry, however, he now says that the second round of EEC enlargement may have to wait until the first has been properly completed. Greece, which is due to join on January 1 next year, would slip through the net. But any slowdown in the timetable for Spain would also affect Portugal—both countries want to join at the beginning of 1983—even if Spain is the real French target.

There are undoubtedly a number of reasons for M. Giscard d'Estaing's change of position so soon after the resolution of the bitter argument with Britain over budgetary contributions. He may well wish to remind Mrs. Thatcher that France still commands a final say over the direction in which the Community is to develop. (Britain, along with the other Community Governments, though possibly for different reasons, favours Spanish entry).

Food imports

Equally, France has always insisted that the Community—and French interests—must be protected from the potentially damaging consequences of admitting new members. When President Pompidou finally lifted the veto on Britain in December 1969, he only did so on the condition that the Community's enlargement should be preceded by its "strengthening and deepening." It is arguable

that a great deal of trouble would have been avoided if that had actually happened.

The main reasons for M. Giscard d'Estaing's pronouncement, however, are almost certainly domestic. French farmers are already angry about cheap food imports from Spain—as renewed demonstrations in the South of France have again shown in recent days—and even more concerned about the future threat to their markets if Spain becomes a full community member. Not only do French politicians have a deep-seated fear of rural militancy; the farm vote could play a crucial role in next year's Presidential elections. The Gaullists and Communists have already come out firmly against Spanish entry for these very reasons.

In this respect, M. Giscard d'Estaing's move can be seen as tactical and defensive. Once the election is out of the way, provided he wins, things could look rather different. The danger is that he will be seen to be following somewhat halfheartedly, his opponents' lead, while at the same time abandoning the high ground of international statesmanship on which he has staked one of his main claims to the French leadership. It does not look good to let down such an important nation as Spain, which has long been promised membership and encouraged over the years to seek it by France more than anyone else.

Venice summit

It is true that the entry of Spain will cause the Community enormous economic, political and institutional problems, as West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has again recognised this week. It is also true that the Community has done precious little about tackling them in advance. That is not Spain's fault. As a European democracy, Spain is entitled to join the Community and should be made especially welcome at a time when the democratic West needs to stand together. The answer is not to postpone Spanish (and Portuguese) entry, but to examine how it can be used as an incentive to engineer the sort of agricultural and structural reforms that cannot in any case be long postponed. This week's EEC summit in Venice would be a good time to start.

The German election campaign: By JONATHAN CARR in Bonn

Helmut Schmidt: giant with chinks in his armour

THE PERSONALITY of Herr Helmut Schmidt is at the centre of the election campaign strategy of the West German government parties. The two coalition partners have just decided on their programmes for the election in less than four months' time. With little exaggeration it can be said that they are preaching hard work, discipline and no experiments—and that their programme is personified by the Chancellor himself.

It is not especially surprising that the Social Democratic Party (SPD), whose pre-election congress ended in Essen yesterday developed into a kind of Association for the Re-Election of the Chancellor. Opinion polls show his popularity clearly exceeding that of his party—so the moral for the SPD is clear enough, however hard some of the comrades on the Left may find that to swallow.

But it is astonishing on the face of it that the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), the coalition's junior partner, went so far in the same direction. The ghost of Helmut Schmidt was present throughout the FDP congress at Freiburg last weekend, and at times it seemed even more influential than the public exhortations of Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the FDP leader who is Foreign Minister. Certainly the FDP was most unlikely to swing towards the opposition Christian Democrats (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) under their candidate for Chancellor, Herr Franz Josef Strauss. Most members of the FDP feel that support for Herr Strauss—whom they see as a kind of misguided missile of the Right—would be the kiss of death for the liberals.

But was it likely that the Congress would vote so overwhelmingly—with only two dissenting votes from 400 delegates—to continue the alliance with the SPD? After all, Herr Genscher had warned the party that it faced the toughest election campaign in its history and that its existence was in danger. Delegates might have been forgiven for feeling that if such was the result of more than ten years in coalition with the SPD, it might be better to try something else. They did not—and a key reason was that most realised that with Herr Schmidt they are on to a winner. When the going becomes tough, almost all—whether left-wing Social Democrats or right-leaning liberals—turn to the Chancellor.

And there is no denying that the going is tough. Six months ago it was usual to hear (even, privately, from the ranks of the CDU-CSU) that barring major foreign policy setbacks or economic troubles at home the SPD-FDP coalition under Herr Schmidt seemed almost certain to win the general election on October 5. This view was so widespread that real enthusiasm for the coming campaign tended

to evaporate—as though the country was being called upon to witness the replay of a match whose result was already known. The only upset, it was felt, would come if "Germany, a model for others"—to recall an SPD slogan from a past campaign, were to run into real problems which Herr Strauss could exploit with his widely acknowledged oratorical skill. The upset would surely be a duel between Herr Schmidt and Herr Strauss—a kind of battle of giants such as the Federal Republic had not seen since the clashes between the Christian Democrat, Konrad Adenauer, and the Social Democrat, Kurt Schumacher, three decades ago.

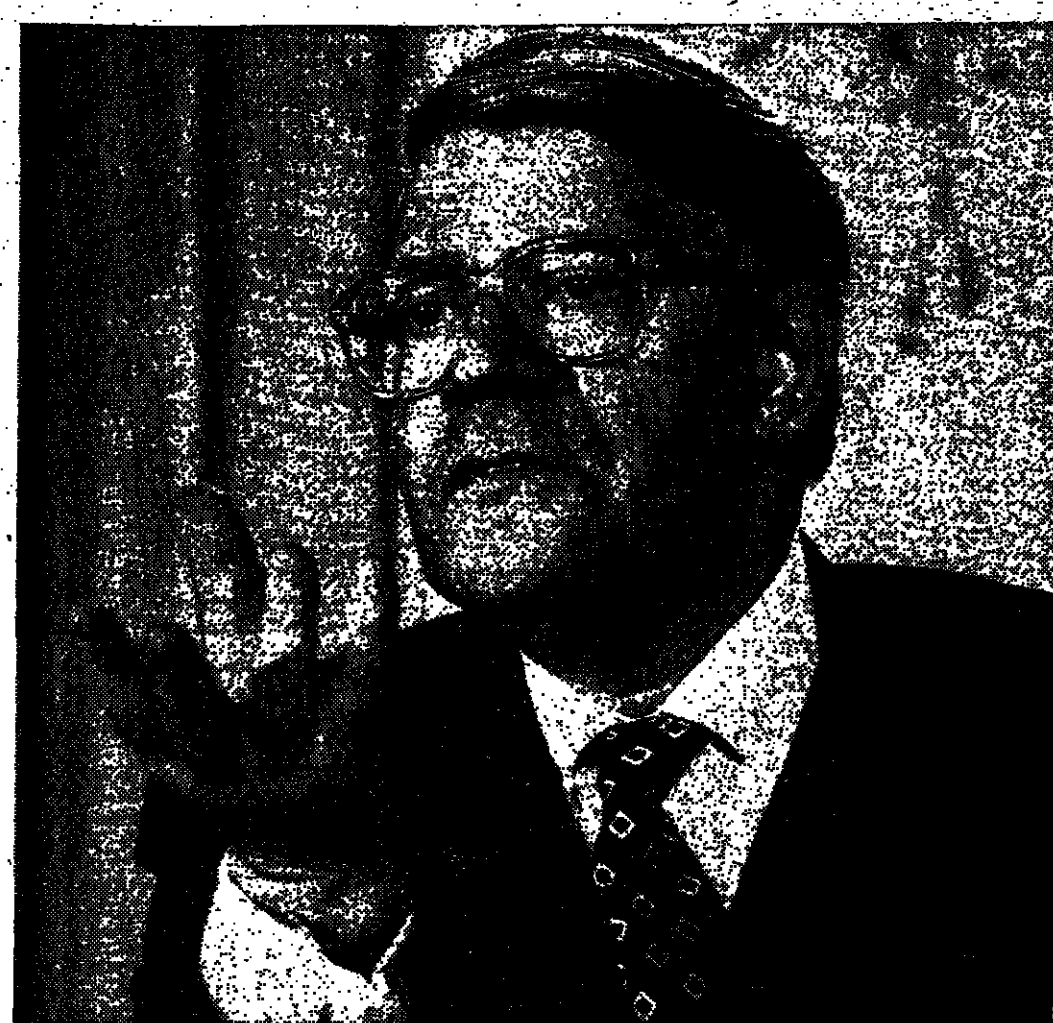
Foreign policy problems have indeed emerged, to a degree which even the blackest pessimists hardly expected. The double crisis in Iran and Afghanistan not only caused friction between Bonn and Washington—with the Germans bemoaning the apparent lack of any long-term U.S. concept for facing the challenge in the south-west Asian region. It has also threatened to undermine trade and political links built up with the Soviet Union and eastern Europe over a decade. The fruits of Ostpolitik—one of the proudest achievements of the SPD-FDP coalition—have seemed about to vanish. The problem of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget long paralysed the community—and the resolution of it may mean higher taxes for Germans on petrol and spirits from the start of next year.

At home the economy in the first quarter has been more buoyant than almost anyone expected and few doubt that real GNP growth of an average 2.5 per cent can be achieved this year—as the government predicted. But meanwhile inflation has surpassed an annual rate of 6 per cent for the first time since 1975, the Germans are having to accustom them-

Herr Strauss has been unusually restrained

selves to the unusual spectacle of a growing current account deficit—and there are clear signs of an economic downturn in the second half of the year.

The latest survey of business opinion issued by the IFO economic research institute makes notably gloomy reading. Even recognising that businessmen are rarely inclined to express unalloyed optimism, it is worth recalling that IFO has a remarkably good record in spotting the first signs of recession. Of course it does not have to be a recession—maybe simply a downturn followed by a recovery in 1981. But no one can be sure—and the embargo against Iran coupled with the threat of a partial embargo on



Helmut Schmidt

Hugh Roundell

export to the Soviet Union hardly helps encourage the confidence of exporters.

Despite all that, no battle of giants has so far begun—and it is beginning to look as though it may never do so. True, Herr Strauss put on a rousing performance at the recent CDU congress in Berlin—but for much of the time he has been unusually restrained. In seeking to present himself as a statesman, he may have subdued those very qualities of fire and wit which have been his greatest strengths in opposition.

He has attacked the Government for failing sufficiently to support the U.S.—but this is hard to make very credible to most Germans who see their country almost alone in Europe supporting President Carter's call for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Herr Strauss has urged a tougher stand against the Soviet Union, yet for long he did not rule out going to Moscow himself for talks. Herr Schmidt will do so at the end of this month. Herr Strauss has spoken out for greater defence efforts—but the Government boosted military spending after the Afghanistan invasion to meet the 3 per cent increase in real terms called for by NATO.

In other words, it has been hard for many people to see just what Herr Strauss could have

done which would have proved more effective than what Herr Schmidt has done. There is a clear public mood not to experiment. The crises which might have helped Herr Strauss have so far done the reverse.

Not that the "Iron Chancellor" has no chinks in his armour. Herr Schmidt's recent wrathful open message to a German newspaper which he said was misrepresenting Bonn's foreign policy, appeared more in keeping with the kind of ill-considered reaction the Chancellor often attributes to Herr Strauss. The initiative about which the paper was mainly complaining, Herr Schmidt's call on East and West not to deploy intermediate range nuclear missiles, was itself poorly launched. Meant as a new signal to Moscow to help get arms limitation negotiations off the ground, it was given in a public speech for which no text was available and which was open to misinterpretation.

All that said, Herr Schmidt has shown sure political instinct in guiding his country through the minefields—and his party recognises that, even those of the Left who yearn for more domestic social reform or who fear that Bonn needs Washington too much. They know that without Helmut Schmidt the election would be lost—and Herr Schmidt knows they know

it. His speech on Monday to the SPD congress was more like a government declaration than a party manifesto—largely low-key, factual, stressing that reforms had to be financed, and even noting there were good elements in the CDU opposition. It was the Olympian performance of one who does not have to play to the gallery.

On the platform at his side, under a huge banner proclaiming the congress motto, Security for Germany, there were two men whose personal political fortunes exemplify the position of the whole party. One was Herr Erhard Eppler, on the Left of the SPD, who neither wanted nor received much support from Herr Schmidt in his campaign in the recent election in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg—and who came a cropper. The other was Herr Johannes Rau, a party centrist, who ran his campaign in North-Rhine-Westphalia very much in Herr Schmidt's shadow—and emerged triumphant. At national level the party clearly has taken the message—and is determined to follow the example of Herr Rau.

There is a catch—and the election in North-Rhine-Westphalia shows it. The SPD won handsomely there, but its former coalition partner, the FDP, as in Bonn, slipped below 5 per cent voter support and

vanished from the State Parliament. If this happened at national level one possibility would be for the SPD to gain an absolute majority in a two-group parliament. But that is most unlikely. In the past three general elections—in 1969, 1972 and 1976—the SPD received respectively 42.7 per cent, 45.8 per cent and 42.8 per cent of the vote. In the unlikely event of getting an outright victory, however, Herr Schmidt's triumph could be short-lived: He would be faced with a much more restive, left-wing, freed from the bonds of coalition with the liberals.

Another possibility, also unlikely, is that the CDU-CSU might gain the absolute majority. And for all the problems facing Herr Strauss in the campaign, it is worth recalling that in the past three elections the CDU-CSU gained 46.1 per cent, 44.9 per cent and 48.6 per cent of the vote.

Yet another possibility is that the ecologist party, the so-called Greens might receive more than 5 per cent support in the election, and enter parliament in place of the FDP. This is not very likely either. If it happened it is far from clear with whom the Greens would be prepared to work—Herr Schmidt or Herr Strauss. They cover such a wide political spectrum that almost any coalition combination seems possible.

Thus while the FDP is fighting to keep its nose above the 5 per cent mark required to win any Bundestag seats (it gained 7.3 per cent of the vote in 1976)—more in the SPD have an urgent interest in seeing it succeed. The possible alternatives do not look inviting. Even one SPD deputy usually associated with the left wing, and thus in principle interested in an absolute majority in October, showed notable caution in private conversation. He felt—better or worse—that political liberalism had become deeply ingrained in West German life. A major swing to the Left in the coming election would, he felt, send many former FDP supporters running to a CDU freed of Herr Strauss, who, it is thought, will probably retreat from the national scene if he fails to become Chancellor, this time. The upshot, according to this reasoning, would be an early return of the CDU-CSU to the power it lost a decade ago—and opposition exile for the left for many years to come.

For the SPD the best possible result in October would therefore be a little more support than before, to give it some extra room for manoeuvre in Parliament, and a little less support for the FDP—but of course more than 5 per cent—to stop the liberals becoming too big for their boots. There can always be setbacks—even in the relatively calm waters of West German politics. But at present, with Herr Schmidt firmly at the tiller, that seems to be the most likely way for the election to go.

MEN AND MATTERS

Vidal's changing business style

Three years ago, when he was 50, Vidal Sassoon gave himself five years to clamber to the top of the cosmetics industry alongside Revlon and Estée Lauder. And while he still has some way to go, I found the unfading darling of the sixties yesterday claiming turnover of \$100m a year, compared with \$30m in 1977.

Hairstressing salons, the foundation of his U.S.-based company, Vidal Sassoon Incorporated, have shrunk into the background, contributing only about \$12m a year to the corporate turnover. Provincial outposts of his "crimping" enterprise are being closed and the main skills and expenditure are being concentrated in what he describes as "flagships." In the U.S., for example, the Sassoon hairstressing standard now flies in the poshest boulevards of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and New York.

The price of international renown, it seems, is high ambition and high turnover among staff trained under his aegis. "The best people do not want to stay in the provinces, they want Mayfair and the bright lights," he told me yesterday.

And there are sound financial reasons, too. He closed his company's most famous outlet in Bond Street last year when he was faced with an increase in rent from \$14,000 to \$80,000.

While his fame seldom flagged during the seventies—he is a masterful self-publicist—the thrust of the company seemed to be dissipated in assorted licensing arrangements under which his name was used on cosmetics, clothing and other appearances of free-spending youth.

Now manufacturing in its own right, the enterprise seems to have settled into a more deliberate advance under his son, a former crimp, whom Sassoon has coaxed the posts of president and chief executive.

The more muscular development of VSI began some seven years ago when Solomon dug up a biochemist with bright ideas on hair products. He talked with Sassoon's idiosyncratic views on healthy living. With sales racing away in the U.S. and £1.5m earmarked for promotion in the UK, the shampoos are soon to be followed across the Atlantic by skin care products from Sassoon's own factories.

It is in the U.S., however, where the group's main strength lies and rapid progress can probably be taken for granted. Sassoon is a cult figure there, much admired as an author and showbiz personality—he has his own TV production company which has just sold a chat show series starring himself to 60 stations. In Britain, where competition is to be rather unflattering, and where he is still best known simply as the East End barber who made good, he has to make his mark with a more circumspect breed of consumers and win the hearts of a generation who were in rompers when his star shone brightest on this side of the Atlantic.

High hopes

Former chairman of Booker McConnell, Sir George Bishop, is talking to the hills again today in the rarified atmosphere atop the Pyrenees as he aims to prepare for greater climbs later this year. He also travels in search of inspiration. Only six months away from his official deadline he is still £200,000 short of his fundraising target of £400,000 for the Royal Geographic Society, and he is puzzling how best to extract the balance from the City and industry.

At the society's 150th anniversary jamboree on Monday his efforts so far—not to mention his high-altitude exploits—earned him an honorary fellowship.

Now, he tells me, he is seeking recognition with his wife, Una, as the oldest climbing couple in Britain still in the

20,000-foot club. "When I was 40," he says, "I felt I was growing too old for climbing so I took up photography." Now he is going on 67 and plans an assault in the autumn on a 19,000 ft peak in the Annapurna range.

Front runners

With Westminster's political tit-tac men shouting the odds on the man to succeed Jim Callaghan, the professionals at Ladbrokes have added their voice to the chorus. While it would be presumptuous of me to suggest that the firm has lifted its tips from my recent note on the book of Ian Mikardo, Parliament's unofficial bookie, the placings are remarkably similar.

John Silkin has been installed as favourite at 9 to 4, the 13 to 8 front-runner in Mikardo's list, Denis Healey is 5 to 2 (7 to 4), and Peter Shore is quoted at 3 to 1 (7 to 2). Coming up fast, however, is the lean and hungry Tony Benn. An outsider at 33 to 1 according to Mikardo, he has been promoted to 4 to 1 in the Ladbrokes list.

Fleet's fault

I would have thought Britain's hard-pressed fishermen had enough to worry about without the brickbat lobbed in their direction yesterday by Geoffrey Hall of the Take Away and Fast Food Federation. He told a group of sceptical MPs yesterday that chip shops and fishmongers were closing at the rate of more than one a day—and that the fishermen had to bear much of the blame.

With some indignation he said fishermen had treated retailers with "scant respect" over the year. For instance, the fleet and port workers shut up shop over Christmas and the New Year, leaving the trade without fresh supplies for ten days. Would Mr. Hall, I wonder, care to pop up to Hull where redundant deckies and bumpers would no doubt be pleased to hear a repetition of his interesting views?

Rich catch

Not so long ago Taiwanese and Chinese fishermen used to fish side by side in the Straits of Taiwan and exchange cautious greetings. Now, as the fleets mingle, they exchange gold rings, bracelets, watches and cigarettes.

Quartz watches are in short supply on the mainland and fishermen from the People's Republic have been asking for supplies in return for their valuables. The Taiwan Government has grown agitated at this barter through the Bamboo Curtain and customs officers have in recent weeks confiscated more than £1m worth of silver coins and gold from crews returning from so-called fishing trips. More than 20 fishermen have been arrested.

Inflated hopes

"Do you want to be rich," the small ads used to say. "Send me 25 and I will send you details of my method which can make you wealthy in a week."

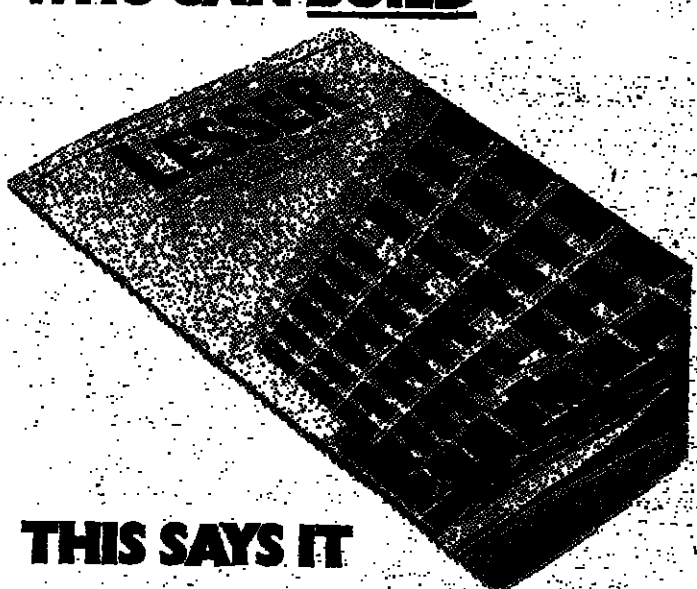
The dreams of avarice on which such advertisers prospered are not only still being dreamed, I must report, but they are also being seriously affected by inflation. "If you want access to \$500m of Arab capital with an annual salary of \$100,000," says a letter now circulating around the world, "just send \$25,000 for a confidential list of Middle East investors."

Officer material

"You are marching a platoon towards an enemy village," a Surrey schoolmaster told a young cadet force trainee. "You arrive at a ravine to discover that the bridge crossing has been destroyed. What would you do?"

"Yes sir," replied the young soldier. "I would tell my men to fall out for five minutes and then fall in on the other side."

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Britain's tractors stuck in the mud

BY HAZEL DUFFY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN THE Americans decided that Britain was a good place to make tractors, they did not reckon with the current crop of problems. High interest rates, high inflation, but most of all the high exchange rate, are causing some anxious moments at Ford, Massey-Ferguson and International Harvester.

Massey's chairman and chief executive, Mr. Victor Rice, says that this combination of economic factors will be a "recipe for disaster". Mr. Thompson, Massey's managing director, says that the company is "exporting from UK is a serious problem at this moment".

Four of the big tractor manufacturers in Britain are American-owned. The fourth (besides Ford, Massey and International) is David Brown Tractors, a long-established British company which was taken over by J. I. Case (part of Tenneco) in 1972. Leyland Tractors is the other big name, but its position has declined in the last few years.

Together, these companies constitute a significant sector of the British engineering industry. Employees of the four multi-nationals engaged in tractors and associated products, total around 25,000, including Perkins Engines, owned by Massey, which sends between 30 and 35 per cent of its engines to Massey factories.

The industry also provides employment for many more in supplying components for tractor assembly.

The exports of these multi-nationals make a significant contribution to the British economy, amounting to several hundreds of millions of pounds.

The total tractor manufacturing operations of Ford, Massey and International are geared to the selling of strategic plants in certain key countries from where they export worldwide. Britain's annual demand for

tractors is tiny when set against the total capacities of the multi-nationals' plants in the country, which means that they are exporting between 65 and 80 per cent of their output.

The importance of exports in the British part of the operation is the kernel of the current problem. Mr. Rice says that the sterling exchange rate has cost Massey a staggering \$33m to \$35m in the first half of this year. Add to this the effect upon costs of the UK's high inflation rate and the high interest rates, and he reckons the "extra" cost of manufacturing in the UK amounts to another \$30m. International cannot give a figure on the total amount by which it has been

Employees of the four multi-nationals total around 25,000

hit by sterling, but it is enough to say that it did its 1979 forecasts on the basis that the pound would be worth \$2.18, and even more optimistically, they reckoned it would fall to \$1.97 in 1980. The rate has in fact risen above \$2.30.

There are some compensation issues — Mr. Thompson says International was bringing in engines from Germany to the UK a little time ago and "the exchange rate was killing us". But he says that the present sterling-dollar rate means that it is impossible to manufacture a tractor in Britain which can be competitively priced in the U.S. This is of more than academic interest, since International decided five years ago to concentrate at Doncaster, manufacture of its small tractor which sells well in the U.S. as a second or third tractor for large farms.

While multi-nationals can find themselves in the uncomfortable position of "backing the wrong country," at least

temporarily, their large purchasing power can enable them to shop around for the best prices. Thompson says International does not like to take long-term decisions on the basis of short-term problems, such as the exchange rate. But he admits that the company is looking at switching component sourcing to suppliers who can offer more competitive prices.

Massey buys components valued at £78m for its Coventry plant. About two months ago, the decision was taken that the sterling problem was not going to disappear quickly and that components could be bought from abroad if the price was right (although the company's policy is still to buy British wherever possible). Purchasing managers say British suppliers have tried hard to maintain competitive prices, but in some cases clearly without success. Massey's supplier of seats, for example, put prices up by 17 per cent between January 1978 and September 1979. During the same period, those of a German supplier fell by 1 per cent in terms of sterling, mainly because of the exchange rate.

Massey opted for the German quotation, which meant the loss of a £250,000 contract to the UK. A German supplier also gained a contract to supply headlights at a saving of 11 per cent to Massey. A British supplier of iron castings, however, agreed to reduce prices and so kept the contract, accepting the consequences for his own company's margins. Given that these decisions on supply are not lightly reversed, it can be seen why some Midlands suppliers are worried about the long term damage that is being done to the components industry, particularly when they have already been hurt badly by the decline of the motor industry.

When the difficulties of tractor production in Britain are set in the context of the much greater problems besetting

each of the parent companies — Ford, North America, and International, a longer shadow begins to spread over their British operations.

FORD is suffering from huge losses piling up on its automotive activities in the U.S. The possibility of selling off the tractor division was one of several options looked at by top Ford managers about 18 months ago, but last summer Ford announced that this would definitely not be done. Ford has since pulled out of a costly foray into European construction equipment by selling off most of its French subsidiary, Richier. That improved the operating economics of the tractor division by which Richier was administered.

MASSEY: After a financial crisis which threatened to escalate into a product credibility crisis, this Toronto-based tractor giant started to pull round last year. The exercise was painful. Plants have been closed, and the senior management structure almost completely overhauled since Mr. Rice took over. But Massey's still needs to raise equity in order to reduce its borrowing burden, and the North American recession could not have come at a worse time for the concern.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER: A five months' strike at nearly all International's U.S. plants earlier this year left the tractor and tractor group with a \$479m loss in the first half. Almost as soon as the strike was settled, short time and lay-offs were announced. A loss is forecast for the full year, and there have been some signs of retrenchment such as the withdrawal of a new piece of construction machinery only two months after its launch. This has affected Doncaster, which made the loss for shipment to the U.S. Detail of International's deal to buy a stake in Enasa, the Spanish truck manufacturer, have yet to be formally announced. It is known that

a new diesel engine plant in Spain is planned, but some observers think that it could have implications for all International's activities in addition to trucks.

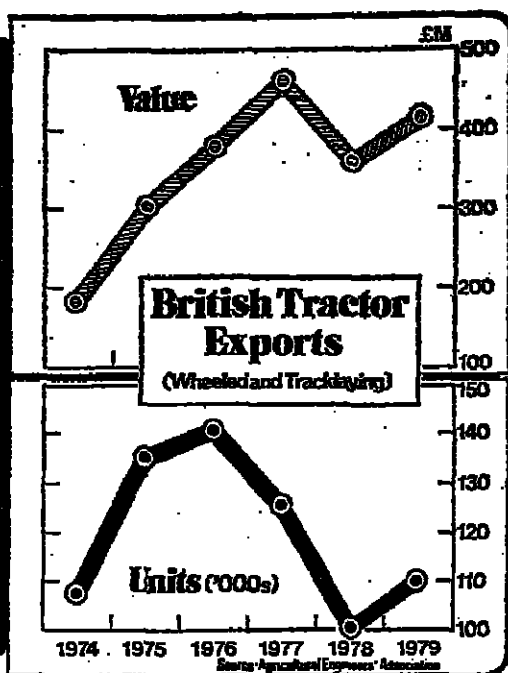
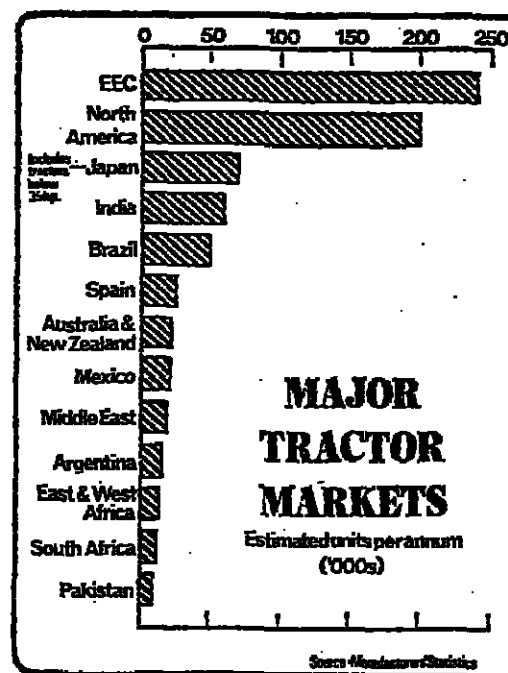
The collapse of the North American market for tractors has already been the cause of substantial lay-offs in the industry, which will probably accelerate in the second half of the year.

Even John Deere, the most successful of all the agricultural equipment companies, has had to lay off people. The ripple effects have spread across the Atlantic — Basildon and Doncaster are both on short time working.

The peak buying periods for tractors in the farmers' year are March-April, and September-October. In March 1980, 12,500 tractors were sold in North America compared with 18,000 in 1979, and in April sales were down from 25,000 to 14,000. The reasons have been variously put: the embargo on grain sales to the Eastern bloc; poor grain and hog prices; high interest rates, which are particularly difficult for farmers.

Normally a year's sales of tractors in Britain are the equivalent of only one or two months' sales in North America. This

year they have dropped much more than everybody was forecasting at the beginning of the year. So far they are down by about 20 per cent, and the pessimists predict the final output could be as low as 20,000 in 1980 against an annual average of around 30,000. The reason, farmers say, is that their incomes have not risen by anything like as much as their



All of them deny they are thinking of pulling out of Britain

Another possible threat to the

dominance of the multi-nationals could be the Japanese, who have proved themselves very successful at capturing a large chunk of the below \$5 tractor market in the U.S. This is a small market both in the U.S. and Europe, but the Japanese have managed to tag their tractors on to the established distributors, and some believe that they will be in a strong position to challenge the big manufacturers over a broader range in a few years' time.

None of the multi-nationals can afford therefore to let their competitiveness deteriorate, which is why the economics of manufacturing in the UK are a critical consideration. Ford, Massey and International have invested heavily — Massey's plant at Banner Lane, Coventry, for example, is the biggest tractor plant in the Western world. J. I. Case has also recently completed a big investment programme at David Brown, and is in the process of integrating the company more closely within its European operations.

All of them, as would be expected, deny that they are thinking of pulling out of Britain. The most integrated

operation is run characteristically by Ford, Basildon is the largest of its three main plants — the others are in Antwerp and Michigan — and the product that they make is completely international. Geoff Tiplady, executive director Ford Tractor UK, says Ford developed the "world tractor" in 1964 when the three-plant axis was set up — "long before the world car was ever envisaged." Both Massey and International also have plants in France and Germany, but their operations are less fully integrated than Ford's.

Mr. Robert Rhodes James, Conservative MP for Cambridge, plans to make representations to the Chancellor on the scale of the problems facing the agricultural equipment industry, and particularly the tractor sector. His fear, and that of others, is that further contraction will follow if the economic dice continue to be loaded against the multi-nationals in the UK. Mr. Rice has already told Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, of the damage, but to no avail. It has to be admitted that the efforts of others are not likely to meet with any more success.

Another possible threat to the

Letters to the Editor

The banks and small companies

From Mr. Andrew G. Elliott.

Sir, Mr. L. F. Daffey (June 7) is very right in saying that the Government talks a lot about helping the small businesses but does very little. But it is not only the Government which does its utmost to kill the small company. The banks charge 1 per cent or 2 per cent on overdrafts, for an overdraft compared to what they charge KCL.

They regard KCL as safe but when I asked the chairman of one of the big four how often they had lost in lending bridging loans, against house purchases for sums of £50,000 or over, he did not reply. I doubt if they have ever lost money on house bridging loans but they still try to charge even up to 4 per cent or 5 per cent more.

The computer also helps the banks because nowadays most banks cannot tell you whether cheques have been presented without a "print-out" which can take days.

The Government also doubled the stamp duty on shares and even though we have had a change of Government it is still 2 per cent. One could go on indefinitely, but the fact remains that most of the help supposedly given to small businesses never reaches them.

Put simply, Governments like big businesses, that they can control easily, and big businesses hate small businesses because they can usually knock spots off them for price, etc. Statistically small businesses make larger profits than big ones and this is a fact not very widely known.

Andrew G. Elliott, Burlington Lodge, Bear's Den, Kingswood, Surrey.

The insolventy stakes

From Mr. Michael D. Bird.

Sir—Andrew Fisher (The management factor in the insolventy stakes June 9) suggested the correlation between company liquidations and inadequate management, a view which I wholeheartedly support. Over the last 24 months, I have been in contact with the management of six public companies currently in liquidation, with a view to assisting in reducing their interest charges by means of a substantial improvement in their cash-flow from their receivables.

In those cases where figures were made available, the need was obvious and proposals were submitted showing that an improvement in cash-flow could be achieved on a highly cost effective basis. In certain circumstances, the cash-flow improvement amounted to over £800,000, a figure which if achieved would probably have averted the crisis.

In every case the offer of assistance was rejected on the basis that either it was felt that there was no need for improvement, or that the improvement could be achieved from within the company's own resources. Such folly must now be apparent.

Michael D. Bird, director, Resource Evaluation, 133, Aldersgate Street, London EC1.

Inaccurate tax assessments

From Mr. S. W. Penwill.

Sir—Mr. Tony Christopher, of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, suggests that the cure for the errors in assessments is yet more staff (June 6).

During my many years as a practising accountant, when assessments used to be issued in floods in early November, the average percentage of those needing appeal was no less than the percentage at present stated to be inaccurate.

An Inspector of Taxes once said to me, when I queried why he was working late when all his staff had gone home, "because I am the only one here who can read a balance sheet."

I would suggest that the solution is not more staff but better trained and more efficient staff and less paper pushers.

S. W. Penwill, 158, Fenchurch Street, London EC3.

The fault, dear Brutus...

From the chairman of Stuart Davis.

Sir—The report recently published by M.I.E.S.E. which spotlights alleged deficiencies in the training skills for engineering appears to be too vague in definitions. As Mr. V. Slinn of the Machine Tool Trades Association, and Mr. A. D. Walsh rightly point out, there is not too much wrong with craft training in the UK. Neither, in my experience, is there any shortage to candidates for craft apprenticeship.

Nevertheless, there does appear to be a very great shortage of qualified technical engineers, capable and willing to make a success in design, production engineering or as project managers. The contrast with Germany and Switzerland in particular, is depressing.

I suspect the problem is not basically one of education to degree level and subsequent training, but that choice is being exercised by graduates to the

Opportunities to save CTT

From Mr. Tom Shucksmith.

Sir—Eric Short (June 7) rightly says that small self-administered pension schemes offer company directors opportunities to save CTT. The main CTT advantage, apart from lump-sum death benefits distributable under discretionary trusts, results from the reduction in the net worth of the company by the amount of the net cost of pension contributions, which may be very substantial.

The transfer of a property from a company to the pension scheme is not an essential part of the plan to save CTT. Indeed, it may have disadvantages because of a capital gain arising on the realisation of a property.

Furthermore, such an investment may not be acceptable to the Inland Revenue unless there is an appreciable period until members retire, the property can be secured by about three years' contributions and the property is of a marketable nature.

The advantage of a property purchase is in improving the company's cash flow, but there are other ways in which the drain on cash flow can be cushioned and for some companies at least cash flow may not be a problem.

Tom Shucksmith, Roquebrune, Blackborough Road, Reigate, Surrey.

Today's Events

UK: Mrs. Margaret Thatcher speaks at Press Association annual lunch, Savoy Hotel, London.

Prince Philip addresses Institute of Housing conference, Harrogate.

Mr. David Howell, Energy Secretary, speaks at British Combustion Equipment Manufacturers Association lunch, London.

Prince Charles opens Shipbuilding Industry Training Board's new boatbuilding centre, Southampton.

Mr. Eric Heffer and Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth address Labour Committee for Europe, House of Commons.

Institute of Manpower Studies seminar on Stansted Airport's impact on employment, Harlow.

Mr. Ray Balfour, British Embassy counsellor, Kuwait, speaks on export opportunities in Kuwait, London Chamber of Commerce.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

House of Commons: Tenants' Rights (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages.

House of Lords: Debate on Government's monetary policies and their damaging effect on trade, investment and employment, Licensing (Am.) (No. 2) Bill, committee. Licensed Premises (Exclusion) Bill, third reading. Short debate on broadcasting licence fee and BBC expenditure.

Select Committees: Defence, Room 8, 10.30 am. Foreign Affairs, Room 15, 10.30 am. Scottish, Room 6, 10.30 am. Industry and Trade, Room 16, 10.45 am. Public Accounts, Room 17, 4.15 pm.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Construction output, first quarter.

COMPANY MEETINGS

See Company News, page 26.

100 years in the Lloyd's market

100 years ago, Cuthbert Heath began his career at Lloyd's. To mark the occasion his biography "Cuthbert Heath—Maker of the Modern Lloyd's of London" is being published and tells the story of the industry's greatest pioneer. It traces his career through such innovations as the first burglary policy, insurance against Zeppelins in the First World War, and earthquakes and hurricane insurance.

Cuthbert Heath brought courage, individualism and an unmistakable touch of genius to the insurance world. To him more than to anyone else Lloyd's and the London insurance market owes its international prominence.

Today, 100 years later Mr. Frank Holland, the Chairman, in his report to shareholders said:—"Many changes have taken place in our business over the past 100 years and we would indeed be fortunate if we could foresee what will happen in the next 100 years. Last year I commented on a number of schemes that had been announced whereby the major US brokers would take an interest or establish some profit pooling arrangement with leading UK insurance brokers.

At that time, I said that we had traditionally maintained a position in the US market as an independent broker and, whilst we were keeping an open mind, we felt there could be positive advantages to maintain such independence. Everything that has occurred in the last year reinforces my conclusion that this was the right policy to adopt and we shall therefore be continuing to maintain this stance.

I find it difficult to forecast the immediate future with all the political and economic problems facing the world today. Inflation in this country is now running on an annualised basis in excess of 20 per cent and sterling remains strong against the major currencies. The greater part of our income comes from overseas and, bearing in mind that a large part of our expenses are incurred in this country, I cannot see any quick solution to our problems. Therefore the prospects for 1980/81 are such that any significant improvement on this year's results is unlikely."

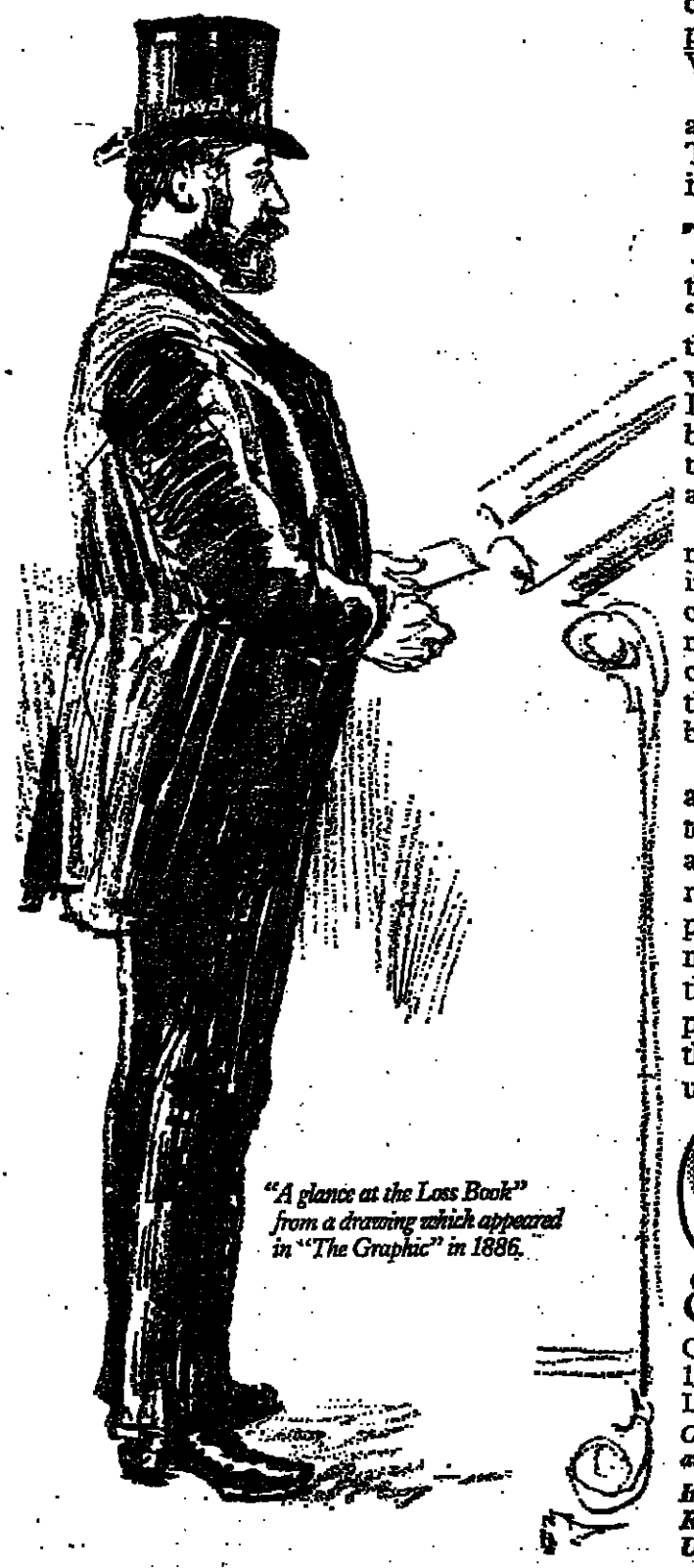
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Allied Breweries slightly higher with £113.1m

RECOVERY FROM the effects of the Warrington brewery strike and much improved performance in the second half enabled Allied Breweries to finish the year to March 3, 1980, with taxable profit of £113.1m on sales of £2.2bn. The current cost surplus was £71m.

This represented a marginal advance on the comparable annualised figures for the previous 53 weeks which indicate profit of £112.4m on turnover of £2.13bn.

The company points out that, because the actual previous accounting period was for 75 weeks and included some contribution from J. Lyons Group, acquired during 1978 a straight comparison is not meaningful.

Revaluation at year end of a major part of the group's properties in the UK and Ireland, except for those related to Lyons, threw up a £253m surplus over book value, which has been taken to reserves.

On the annualised basis there was a £13m profit rise to £54.5m in the second six months following the decline to £38.6m (£70.9m) at midyear.

Earnings per 25p share for the year from operations dipped to 13.3p (14.2p) and, after an extraordinary debit of £18.7m, against a £3.9m credit, the fall was from 15.1p to 10.5p. However, a 3p final takes the net total dividend to 5p, compared with an annualised 4.39p or 6.2214p for 17 months.

The group's overseas beer business ran into a loss for 1979-80 but the original beer division in the British Isles lifted profit from £51.8m to £57.6m.

During the year the former

HIGHLIGHTS

Yesterday's banking figures set back hopes of an early MLR cut and Lex discusses the reasons for the latest trends. Elsewhere it was a busy day for the brewing sector. Allied Breweries announced a slight increase in profits with a strong performance from the food sector, though brewing barely held its own. Brewing too was unexciting for Grand Metropolitan, but other interests such as wines, spirits, gambling and milk have allowed the group to produce a profits increase of over a fifth at the halfway stage. On the inside-pages Carless Capel has popped up with a £91m rights issue and Premier Oil produces results. Profits are ahead from International Timber but the figures are accompanied with a gloomy statement for the future, and toy company Spear, while down, has not seen the pressures of some of its contemporaries.

international division was discontinued and its activities divided between the beer and spirits, and soft drink divisions. And hotels were absorbed into the food division. Reflecting these changes an analysis by activity of sales and pre-tax profit shows beer £709.2m (£665.4m) and £54.8m (£56.1m); wines, spirits and soft drinks £747.1m (£708.7m) and £51m (£44.1m); and food £813.8m (£825.7m) and £22.8m (£18.2m). Less central services costs of £15.5m (£8m) and £70.2m (£67.1m) internal sales.

Budgets for authorised expenditure on fixed assets and trade loans at March 1, amounted to £192m of which beer accounted for £117m. Capital spending over the previous 53 weeks had reached £34.6m with £57.6m being spent in the UK. Group trading surplus was £178.5m (£167.2m) before depreciation of £41m (£39m) and finance charges of £46.8m (£40.4m).

The pre-tax total included a £10.4m (£14.5m) surplus on property sales, £1.7m (£3.4m) investment income and a £10.3m (£8.7m) share of associates. Tax took £29.7m (£24m) and available profit emerged at £86.1m against £90.7m.

CCA profit was arrived at after providing for £46.3m extra depreciation and £23.1m additional cost of sales less an £11.8m monetary working capital adjustment and a £16.3m gearing adjustment.

The historical balance sheet at year-end shows net overdrafts and short term borrowings of £57.3m (£124.5m) and loan capital up from £298.8m to £365.3m. Share capital and reserves were £370m (£373.3m).

The extraordinary loss this time arose mainly from the disposal of the meat business last September. The previous year's sale of the group's investment Lex, back Page

Therefo re any significant improvement this year on the 1979-1980 results is unlikely, he adds. Brokerage income last year dropped 4 per cent to £19.31m, but had sterling remained at the same level the figure would have been £1.48m greater. The group has completed the reorganisation of some of its UK-based insurance broking subsidiaries, while the international business has been merged into its successful North American operations.

The board believes these changes will benefit the companies involved which are now well placed to take advantage when an improvement in world trading conditions occurs.

The group is continuing its position in the U.S. as an independent broker.

On the underwriting side, the Lloyd's agency operations contributed only a small amount to group profits. But following expansion over the last few years in these operations, the activities are in a good position for the future and the board looks for a more substantial contribution from this area.

Mr. Holland is hopeful that there will be a modest improvement in 1980-81 from the Australian underwriting operations after last year's "reasonable" performance.

Results of the French underwriting operation, Groupe Sprinkles were much less than anticipated. Certain inherited problems which have emerged are taking a substantial amount of management time, but the chairman says every effort is being made to overcome them.

At the year-end, group long-term loans were lower at £0.84m (£1.5m). Short-term loans had jumped from £0.5m to £30.6m but these have all been repaid since the balance sheet date.

The company proposes to introduce for members of staff a profit-sharing scheme of the kind envisaged in the Finance Act 1978.

Meeting, Baltic Exchange, EC, July 2, noon.

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Premier Oil in loss after tax

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN

AN INCREASED after tax loss of £271,295 against £158,543 is reported by Premier Consolidated Oilfields for the year to March 31. Profits before taxation moved up, however, from the 1979 level of £3,856 to £249,702 last year. In the market the shares fell 4p to 91p.

The group was hit by £362,827 of Trinidad tax charges on oil produced there and an operating loss of £492,000 on the Buffalo Creek coal mining business in Tennessee. The Trinidad tax charge brought group taxation up to £424,852 (£36,004).

Mr. Roland Shaw, chairman of Premier, said yesterday that the group had promising ventures in the Rocky Mountain Overthrust region of the U.S., where a successful well has been drilled at Monument Creek in Utah.

He also indicated that Premier would be participating in the Seventh Round of North Sea oil block bidding with a 12% per cent stake in the Esso consortium and as manager of its own group, to be made up of UK interests.

"These results are in line with our policy of growing and increasing our assets. It is a long process, but we think we are on the right track," he said.

Turnover comprising sales of oil, gas and coal plus operating fees was up from £2.95m to £3.17m the previous year. Total revenue including dividends from the group's holding in Lasso came to £3.55m (£3.13m).

Mr. Shaw said in his statement yesterday that Premier had maintained its interest in Lasso which presently has a market value of £14.9m. He also noted that the onshore Sutherland well near Bavra, Scotland, which Premier operates and in which it holds a 40 per cent interest, was spudded last Friday and is drilling ahead.

As in the past, no dividend is proposed by the company, but the Board is proposing a one-for-two scrip issue.

Ocean Wilsons at £2.96m

A FALL in pre-tax profits from £3.15m to £2.96m is reported for the year to January 31, 1980, by Ocean Wilsons (Holdings), the investment company with interests in Brazil. Turnover was down from £42.96m to £26.47m.

At halfway, reporting profits of £1.86m (£1.7m), the group said the depreciation of the cruzeiro and the strength of sterling had eroded the Brazilian companies' improvement, and the final result would depend largely on the exchange rate.

UK tax for the year took

£174,000 (£215,000) while overseas tax for the current year took £1.15m (£1.22m) and for prior years £151,000 (£19,000 credit). Profit retained was £387,000 (£1,29m).

A final dividend of 2.5p (2.5p) makes a total of 4.5p (3.5p). Earnings per 20p share are given as 11.8p (13.37p) and a scrip issue of one for one is proposed.

The market value of the group's listed investments at the end of the year was £4.7m (£4.3m) showing a surplus over book value of £2.1m (£2.02m).

Aero down 36% and omits final

Pre-tax profits of Aero Needles Group, the manufacturer of knitting and sewing needles and general smallware, fell 36 per cent from £460,202 to £293,542 in 1979. Turnover was down from £1.73m to £1.71m. At halfway the company reported profits of £233,041 (£178,500).

Results were severely hit by fires at the company's factories, and set against a trading deficit of £44,022 (£385,202 profit) is loss of profit compensation of £337,564 (£73,000).

The excess of insurance compensation over book value of the fixed assets lost in the fire produced an extraordinary item of £493,371 (£280,680). There was a tax credit of £36,783 (£80,452 charge) and after dividend payment the retained balance is £1,92m (£396,980).

The final dividend is omitted (0.44p), making a total of 1.6p (1.57p). Earnings per 20p share are given as 14p (£7.49p) and a tax credit of £36,783 (£80,452 charge) and after dividend payment the retained balance is £1,92m (£396,980).

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Current assets at the year end amounted to £7,64m (£4,92m) and the company's modernisation policy and the quality of its merchandise would lead to a satisfactory year-end result.

Difficult conditions were forecast for late 1979 and 1980 and these conditions of depressed trading, increasing inflation and record interest rates, have had effects and these could continue for the whole of the current

year.

When reporting first-half taxable profits up from £72,000 to £99,000, the directors said that although retail trade sales during the second six months were lower than last time, they were optimistic that the company's modernisation policy and the quality of its merchandise would lead to a satisfactory year-end result.

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J. Spear margins suffer but dividend is boosted

THERE was a slight increase in sales at J. W. Spear and Sons in 1979, from £6.39m to £7.2m, but taxable profits finished the year behind at £1.63m, compared with £1.82m.

At the interim stage profits had slipped from £708,224 to £704,683. The dividend, however, is boosted to 6p (2.1085p) net per 25p share with a final of 3p, as forecast.

The directors of this toy and games manufacturer say that, at home margins were hard to maintain, and export margins suffered severely from strong sterling.

Orders were slow coming in during the year, and the order book is currently about equal in value to the same time last year. An improvement is expected later in 1980, directors say, and so total sales should show an increase in value, although a drop in volume is likely.

And they warn that despite every effort to contain costs, there is likely to be a fall in profits.

After tax of £806,000 (£775,000) net profit is little changed at £1.02m against £1.05m, giving earnings per share of 24.38p (25.1p).

comment

Compared with some of its toy sector fellows, J. W. Spear has been a relatively strong performer. Its conservative outlook has preserved it from expensive forays into vulnerable pro-

ducts and markets. The balance sheet has in the past shown a substantial cash surplus, though this is a seasonal feature and the company is currently running an overdraft. But with the board signalling a profit decline for the third successive year, the time has arguably come to walk a little more on the wild side. Margins on the current sales mix, three-quarters in Scrabble and

educational games, are clearly under pressure. Electronic games would seem to be here to stay, and Spear might well benefit from entering the market as a licensee if it fears over-expanding resources to produce development. The yield of 6.4 per cent does not look to offer much support to a fully-taxed multiple of 6.7 at 138p, down 1p.

year, the directors state. The company is meeting present conditions by reducing its workforce through voluntary redundancies, which have occurred since the end of March.

Following these redundancies, plans are being implemented to operate in a reduced plant area and it is expected that these actions will achieve significant cuts in major overheads.

Nationally, trade on the retail front continues to be sluggish and the company is still therefore having reduced orders from customers. But, with the steps taken, the directors say the company is in a position to take advantage of any upturn in trade.

Interest charges for the year were from £17,000 to £27,000 (£215,000 charge) and retained profits emerged at £7,000, compared with £106,000.

LONDON INV.

London Investment Trust announces that Yale Securities and Baring have each disposed of 400,000 LIT shares. The total

£438.9m against £273.6m.

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DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Company	Date of payment	Current payment	Corre. of payment	Total of year	Total last year
Aero Needle	Aug. 4	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Allied Breweries	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Archimedes Inv. Trst	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Bedfordshire GM	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
East Driefontein	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Edbro	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Elson and Robbins	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Fairline Boats	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Grand Metropolitan	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Gr. Portland	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Highgate Optical	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Intl. Timber Cpn.	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Kloof GM	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Libanon GM	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Ocean Wilsons	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
J. W. Spear	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Sumrie Clothcs	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
Venturesp. GM	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83
West Driefontein GM	Aug. 1	1.83	5	1.83	1.83

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. * Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † Annualised from 75 weeks. ‡ Gross South African cents throughout. § To reduce disparity. ¶ Final of not less than 3.4p forecast.

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GRAND METROPOLITAN LTD

INTERIM REPORT FOR 1980

MINING NEWS

Gold Fields' dividends are disappointing

THE LATEST batch of half-yearly dividends from the South African gold producers, this time the Consolidated Gold Fields group, may cause some frowns in the sharemarket. Apart from Kloof, the mines have declared lower than expected dividends although the payments are still well above those of a year ago.

Particularly disappointing is the 145 cents (74p) final declared by Westgold, which compares with market estimates ranging up to 200 cents. Even so, it brings the total for the year to June 30 to 300 cents from only 45 cents for the previous 12 months, putting the shares on a yield of 1.58 per cent.

The other mines, West Driefontein, Anglo American, and AngloGold, have also declared dividends. AngloGold's final of 100 cents (55p) compares with a market estimate of 120 cents (62p). AngloGold's dividend is the lowest of the group, which has ranged from 50 to 100 cents. It makes a total of 300 cents against 250 cents last time.

On the other hand, Kloof's dividend, which compares with a market estimate of 120 cents (62p), is the highest. Last year an interim of 35 cents was followed by a final of 120 cents.

RECOVERY AT WESTRALIAN

The recovery in the fortunes of Westralian Sands, which was announced in the eighth month period to December 1978, continued into 1979. The Australian beach minerals producer made a net profit of AS 914,317 (AS 500,000), after AS 877,941 in 1978 and a loss of AS 890,537 for

Guyana contract

A CONTRACT worth just over £10m has been signed between Guyana and America's Green Construction for primary stripping of overburden from bauxite for the state-owned Guyanese, reports our Georgetown correspondent.

Work is due to begin in early August and the contract is expected to pave the way for an upturn in bauxite production in Guyana.

The industry there expects to earn over £100m from bauxite sales this year. Production targets are: 300,000 tons alumina and 475,000 tons metal grade bauxite.

Guyana's latest contract, which lasts for 18 months, will cover the removal of some 10m cubic yards of overburden, allowing the company to catch up on its stripping operations which have fallen behind for a number of reasons including a shortage of skilled men and labour unrest.

Tara stiffens opposition

CANADA'S Tara Mines, which operates the big Irish lead-zinc mine at Navan in County Meath, is preparing to oppose yet again the plans for Bula Mines to mount an open-pit operation on adjacent land.

A public inquiry, dealing with Bula's appeal to the planning authority, is to start next month. The property of Tara and Bula are separated by the Blackwater River.

Tara, the biggest lead-zinc mine in Europe, will argue that Bula should be told to stage an underground operation, like Tara itself. It will contend that Bula's present plans are environmentally dangerous and that its projected tailings pond, if it is built, would endanger the lives of those at Tara and could harm Tara's future investment.

This will be the latest stage in a long-running argument between the two companies, in which the Irish Government has been caught in the middle. It has a 49 per cent stake in Bula, a 25 per cent stake in Tara, and a 25 per cent stake in Tara.

The balance of the shareholdings in Tara mine is held by International Minerals, while the majority stake in Bula is held by the Roche Wood and Wynnes family interests.

Tara's financial fortunes have been chequered since its first full year of operation in 1978. In this year, Tara's net profit was AS 1,100,000 (AS 220,000), compared with AS 349,000, according to a Toronto announcement.

ROUND-UP

As part of the recently announced corporate reshuffle of the group of companies associated

BIDS AND DEALS

OCL partners buy out Furness stake for £27m

THE PARTNERS in Overseas Containers Ltd (OCL), Britain's biggest container shipping group, are paying £27m for Furness Withy's 15.81 per cent stake.

Earlier this year the Hong Kong based C. Y. Tung group took over Furness Withy for £113m and under the terms of the shareholders' agreement the other OCL shareholders—P & O, Ocean Transport and Trading and British and Commonwealth—had first refusal on the Furness stake in OCL.

Speaking for OCL and its shareholders, OCL's chairman, Sir Ronald Swayne, said yesterday that the Tung takeover of Furness Withy had created a conflict of interest.

The Tung group's Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL) competes with OCL in the trade between the Far East and Europe. In addition, OOCL's other container ship operations could compete with OCL in other trades in future.

Sir Ronald said the possibility of close collaboration between OCL and OOCL in existing and future trades has been given careful consideration since it could bring considerable advantage to both companies.

However, he added that it had not been found possible to establish the complete identity of interest between OCL and OOCL which existed between OCL and all its shareholders before Furness Withy became part of the C. Y. Tung group.

Nevertheless, Sir Ronald did not rule out future cooperation at some stage and said that "perhaps joint operations may be developed in individual trades to their mutual advantage."

After the share reshuffle P & O's stake will increase from 30.9 per cent to 36.7 per cent. Ocean Transport's stake will rise from 34.09 per cent to 40.49 per cent and British and Commonwealth's stake will rise from 19.20 per cent to 22.81 per cent.

In December 1980 P & O's Gulf trade will be transferred to OCL and this will lead to a further share reshuffle. Assuming this takes place on the same basis as was disclosed in the OCL annual report, P & O will emerge as the major shareholder in OCL with 45.4 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are intended or final and the subdivisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY

Interim: Hanson Trust, Nottingham Brick, United States and General Trust. Final: British Overseas Airways, Theatres, Churchbury Estates, Continuous Stationery, Electric Investment Trust, Galloway Tin Mines, Metal Box, Rowntree Construction, 600 Group, Tem-Consulting.

FUTURE DATES

Interim: Murdoch June 22, Record Highway June 23, Austin (E.) (London) June 23, British and Commonwealth June 23, Shipping June 23, Brown and Tawse June 23, Caledonia Investments June 23, GEI International June 17, Telford June 18, Wessell (J. W.) June 18.

Hall Steamship stops dealings

Hall Brothers Steamship Company, a Pash shell controlled by Mr. Alan Ferguson's Guernsey based Temple Investment and Finance Company, has requested a halt to dealings in its shares on the unlisted securities market.

Hall, which had its full quotation cancelled following its disengagement from shipwrecking during 1979 said yesterday that an announcement was pending and in the meantime had requested the Stock Exchange not to permit specific bargains to take place under the provisions of Rule 163 (2).

Mr. Ferguson's offer for the loss-making Hall Brothers, which had considered liquidation before the offer, was 70p per share. This compares with 202p at which they were dealt in yesterday.

At the time of the bid Mr. Ferguson said that Hall would invest in shares of quoted and unquoted mining companies. And as his first move purchased 200,000 Rand London Corporation shares at 69p each.

Just over 18 months ago Mr. Ferguson sold a package of coal mining interests to Mining Investments in exchange for shares in the company. Mining Investments was subsequently taken over by Burnet and Tait, and Mr. Ferguson ended up with 15 per cent of Burnet as a result.

In January Mr. Ferguson resigned from the board of Burnet and at the same time reduced his holding to 11.9 per cent by the placing of 134,285 shares. This left his holding at 1m which was said to be a long term investment.

On Monday it was announced that Mr. Ferguson had sold this remaining stake. Burnet stood at 820p yesterday.

Wiggins Teape tissue sale

SMITH AND NEPHEW, the medical and sanitary products group, is to acquire Wiggins Teape's 50 per cent interest in Associated Tissues for £3.09m.

The consideration is to be satisfied by the issue of 4.67m new ordinary shares to Wiggins Teape. Wiggins has arranged to have the shares disposed of by means of a vendor placing.

The deal will give Smith and Nephew a 100 per cent holding in Associated Tissues and consequently a 50 per cent interest in British Tissues, the remaining 50 per cent being held by Oy Nokio AS of Finland.

Total net assets of British Tissues at December 1979 were £15.5m, with profits of £2.3m and no tax liability.

The purchase is in line with Smith and Nephew's policy of extending its interests in UK consumer hygiene products.

As far as Wiggins Teape is concerned the sale will help to concentrate its financial and management resources behind its current heavy investment programme in speciality papers in the UK.

IRELAND DISPOSES OF TITAGHUR INTERESTS

H. B. Ireland and Co., a London-based importer of Indian goods, has sold its entire holding of 83,500 ordinary shares in the Titaghur Jute Factory Company. This represented an interest of 5.85 per cent.

EWER/COWIE

Laurence Prust and Co., as brokers to George Ewer and Co., one June 9, sold 2,400 Ewer ordinary shares at 52p on behalf of a discretionary client, and on the same date they purchased 50,000 ordinary at 52p and 75,000 ordinary at 53p on behalf of an associate of Ewer.

T. Cowie, chairman, has acquired 38,000 ordinary and T. A. Cowie, director, has acquired 15,000 ordinary.

NIMSLO

Further to the share acquisition by Nimslo European Holdings announced yesterday, Baring Brothers states that a resolution has been passed by Nimslo Limited shareholders to sanction the cancellation of the company's 14 per cent unsecured loan stock 1983-85, in exchange for the issue by Nimslo European of an equivalent amount of 14 per cent unsecured loan stock 1983-85.

CHARTERHOUSE

The number of Charterhouse shares purchased by Grieverson, Grant and Co. on behalf of Charterhouse Japhet (account/client) should have read 1,200, and not 1,23m as published in yesterday's edition.

HOUSE OF FRASER

Recent share deals in House of Fraser, the department store group which owns Harrods and is resisting Lorrain's attempts to force its final dividend up by 50 per cent, show that the non-beneficial interest of Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman, has been increased by 100,000 shares.

Following other recent transactions, the trustee interest of Mr. G. Wikkoughby is 1.18m shares.

WARING/MAPLE

Reflecting acceptance and purchases through the market Waring and Gillow has over 50 per cent of the ordinary and over 86 per cent of the preference capital of Maple and Co. (Holdings). These are represented by 22,35m ordinary shares and 223,000 preference.

FERRANTI/MITCHELL

Ferranti has acquired the business and assets of Mitchell Hydraulics, a company employ-

Elson & Robbins up so far

On turnover up from £9.55m to £12.27m pre-tax profits of Elson and Robbins, manufacturer of Duflex springs and spring assemblies, moved ahead to £1.12m for the half year ended March 31, 1980, compared with £949,868.

The directors state that the company will not be immune from the general economic climate, but they feel the full year should be satisfactory.

Profit for the whole of the 1978-79 year was a record £2.83m.

During the period subsidiary, Thos. K. Webster (UK) incurred a loss of £12,248. Market conditions are still very difficult, the directors say, and they do not expect any recovery from this company in the second half.

On capital increased by last year's one-for-two rights, group earnings per 25p share are shown as 6.88p (7.31p on old capital), and the interim dividend is unchanged at 1.50p net—last year's final payment was 3.49p.

Net profit for the six months came out at £872,977 against £491,355, after tax of £450,898 (£458,511).

Increased losses for S. Sherman

On sales down from £1.3m to £853,000 Samuel Sherman, ladies' garments maker, has incurred a slightly higher pre-tax loss for 1979 of £89,401, compared with £84,613.

Sales in the last four months failed disastrously, the directors state, leading to an inadequate recovery of overheads, and an excessive level of stocks.

Overheads have been further reduced and action is in hand, they say, to improve and diversify the trading position.

Loss per 10p share is given as 2.48p against 2.34p, and again there is no dividend—last payment was 0.635p net for 1974.

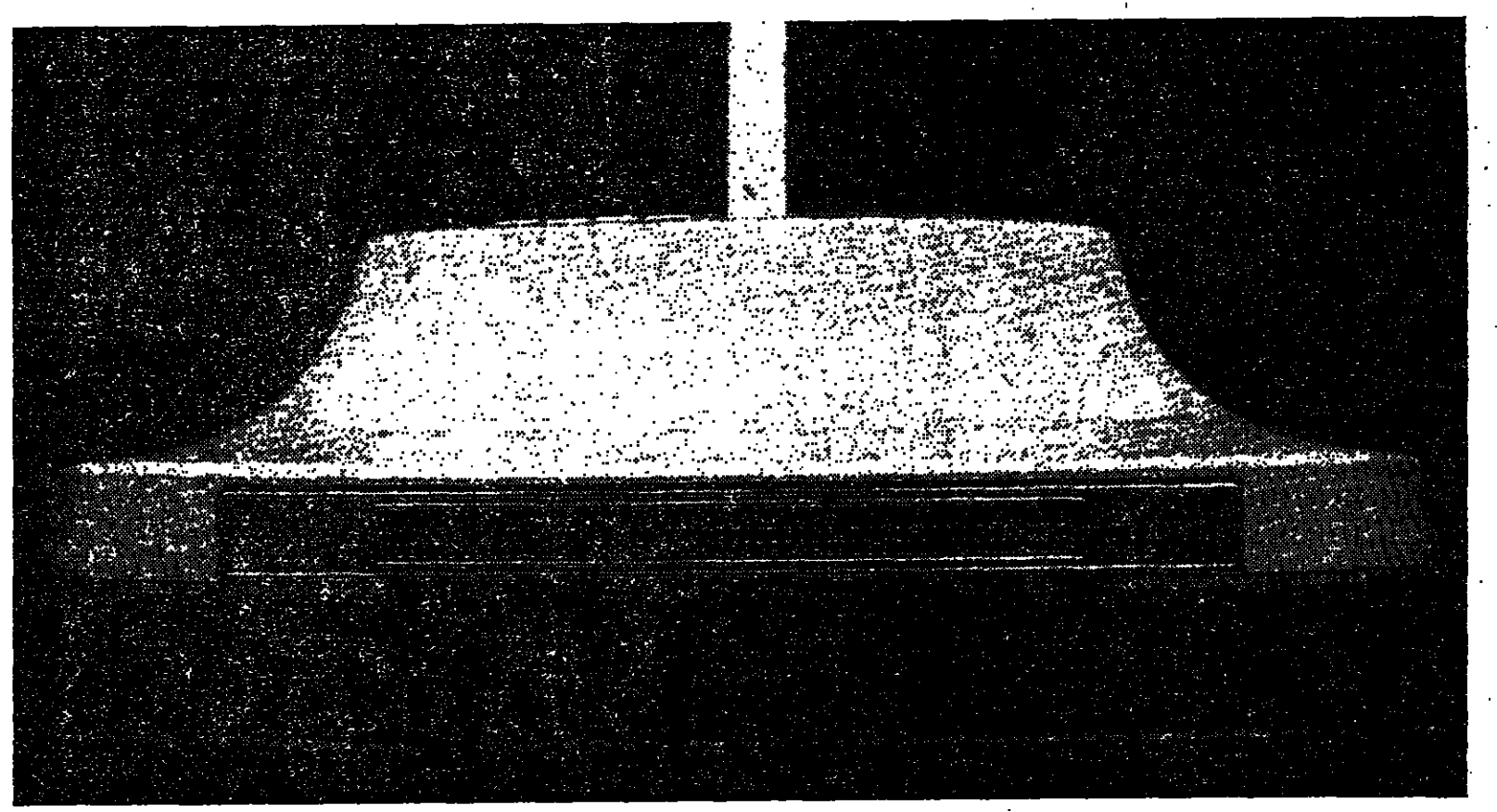
There is no tax figure for the year (£1,170 credit), and last time, there was an extraordinary credit of £51,930.

S. Rhodesia bond talks

The estimated 15,000 UK holders of Southern Rhodesia bonds who have not received any interest or capital repayments since UDI in 1965, are expected later this week to hear news of the progress of negotiations taking place in London.

The Zimbabwe Government has already indicated its intention of settling the debts and talks aimed at agreeing compensation terms are being held at the moment between its representatives and the Council of Foreign Bondholders.

Parallel talks are being held between the Zimbabweans and the Treasury over the repayment of about £50m of official Government debt.



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EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE									
Series	July			Oct.		Jan.		Stock	
	Vol.	Last		Vol.	Last	Vol.	Last		
AKZ C F.92.50	1	1.50		10	5.20	1	5.30	F.92.90	
AKZ D F.92.50	119	0.60		33	1.50	13	2	"	
AKZ E F.92.50				41	0.50			"	
AKZ F F.92.50				10	1.60			F.94.30	
AKZ G F.92.50	18	4.70		11	2.30			"	
AKZ H F.92.50	1	5 1/2						894 1/2	
AKZ I F.92.50								92 1/2	
AKZ J F.92.50						5	3.80	F.93.70	
AKZ K F.92.50	3	2.80		2					
AKZ L F.92.50						3 3/4		85 1/2	
AKZ M F.92.50	55	2.30		10	4.50			F.96.30	
AKZ N F.92.50	21	0.80		3	1.80			"	
AKZ O F.92.50	1	2.10						"	
AKZ P F.92.50	5	1.30						"	
AKZ Q F.92.50	1	2.50						"	
AKZ R F.92.50	3	14.10						"	
AKZ S F.92.50	1	11.50						F.111	
AKZ T F.104.90	2	7		1	8.80			"	
AKZ U F.109.12	4	3.60		5 1/2				"	
AKZ V F.110.10				2	5.50			"	
AKZ W F.180						2	3.60	"	
AKZ X F.180								F.93.70	
AKZ Y F.92.50	1	400						"	
AKZ Z F.92.50	3	30						F.116.90	
AKZ AA F.92.50				19	1.50			"	
AKZ AB F.92.50	10	0.90				30	0.90	"	
AKZ AC F.92.50	4	0.50						F.108.50	
AKZ AD F.92.50	8	1.50		28	17.50			"	
AKZ AE F.92.50	370	8.50		29	10.60			"	
AKZ AF F.92.50	77	9.60		329	6	10	6.70	"	
AKZ AG F.92.50	2,143	29		58	1			"	
AKZ AH F.92.50	78	1.30		2	7.50	10	3.90	"	
AKZ AI F.92.50	470	1.80		4	6.40	2	8.50	"	
AKZ AJ F.92.50	87	5.90						F.113	
AKZ AK F.92.50				2		4	8	"	
AKZ AL F.115	10	3.50						"	
							</		

Companies and Markets

UK COMPANY NEWS

Grand Met up £10.5m midway

ALTHOUGH HINDERED by the effects of national economic problems and the strong pound, sales of Grand Metropolitan climbed from £292.9m to £311.5m for the six months to March 31, 1980, and profits before tax rose by £10.5m to £61.2m.

Mr. Maxwell Joseph, the chairman, says consumer demand in the main trading areas of the UK has been held back by inflation, higher indirect taxes and other national economic problems, while the strength of sterling adversely affected exports and tourism and reduced the sterling equivalent of overseas profits.

However, he remains confident that with hard work, the company's natural advantages will enable it to continue progress.

For the year ended September 30, 1979, pre-tax profits were a record £136m (£115.94m).

Referring to the acquisition of Liggett Group, Mr. Joseph says this will substantially increase growth potential and provide a better spread of risks and opportunities.

It is intended to consolidate the Liggett assets with the rest of the group from June 1, although the chairman does not anticipate any major profits increase in the current year from this acquisition.

Group yearly sales and trading profits—up from £70.7m to £82.1m—were split respectively between: Hotels, entertainment, catering and managed public houses (£288.8m (£252.6m) and £18.5m (£18.1m)); milk and food (£243.6m (£213.4m) and £13.6m (£11.9m)); brewing and

Carless £9.5m call for exploration and refining

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN

A £9.5m cash call is being made by Carless, Capel and Leonard, the oil exploration and refinery group which struck oil 150 feet from the A32 in Hampshire.

Mr. Leonard, the chairman, explained yesterday: "We are making this rights issue in order to position ourselves for the dual development of our manufacturing business and oil and gas exploration interests."

The issue, which is for 9,882,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at 100p per share, is on a one-for-four basis and underwritten. It follows just a few weeks after the company announced more than doubled pre-tax profits of £6.26m for the year to March 31.

It also comes a little over a week after the release of testing details from the "Humbly Grove" onshore oil field near Basingstoke—a producing oil reservoir of between 50 and 100 barrels per day was said to have been found.

The £9.5m rights money is to be divided roughly in half between exploration and refining operations. Mr. Leonard said: "We think this is the right amount of money to ask for. Our company has two sides: the profitable side and the expenditure side."

Carless will spend about £2m to build a new petrochemical processing plant for Carless Solvents, enabling the company to use a wider range of feedstocks and increasing sources of supply. An additional £1m will probably go for the enlargement of productive capacity at the group's Harwich and Middlesbrough refineries.

Part of the initial sum will also help with the purchase of a bulk container ship costing £3.8m, although much of the funds for this vessel will be financed from internal cash resources at first.

Intl. Timber at £8.74m despite second half fall

DESPITE declining from £4.43m to £3.83m in the second half, pre-tax profits of International Timber Corporation advanced from £8.05m to £8.74m in the full year to March 29, 1980. This figure was struck after interest pre-acquisition trading at £4.5m against £2.54m, and included a reduced surplus on property sales of £363,000 compared with £1.35m.

Commenting on the figures, Mr. R. E. Groves, the chairman, says the final quarter was responsible for a lower contribution in the second half. Sales were up nearly £50m to £216.46m, and trading profit improved some £3m to £12.67m (£9.33m). If, for comparison purposes, Bamberg's first half pre-acquisition trading is incorporated into the previous year, improvements are £27m and £2m respectively, he adds.

After tax lower at £1.64m (£2.61m) and extraordinary items £182,000 (full), stated earnings per 25p share are down from 27.1p to 26p, but the final dividend is raised from 5.085p to 5.6p, making 8.9p (8.085p).

Comparisons have been re-stated to take account of the rights issue in July, 1979 and SSAP 15.

The rights issue raised £6.3m. In addition to the receipt of £6.3m from the sale of the Belize subsidiary, a further £1m was received from the sales of surplus freehold sites. Further disposals this year are expected to produce at least a like amount.

Total borrowings as a proportion of shareholders' equity has been reduced to 35 per cent compared with 55 per cent last year.

During April the decision of the construction industry in view of their lower workload to extend the Easter holiday to a complete week, helped to continue the slow-down in the first two months of this year. The company's sales in the UK for this period were no more than in 1979 despite prices for most materials having risen.

Fairline Boats at £0.26m

THE IMPACT of rapid inflation on cash balances but it has affected the rate of forward order intake, the directors say. They feel it would be imprudent to forecast the full-year outcome in view of the current depression in the UK boatbuilding industry. Pre-tax profits totalled £771,155 for 1979-80.

Competition will become more intense as competing manufacturers, which, unlike Fairline, hold heavy stocks of completed boats, reduce prices and try to convert stocks into cash before the autumn, they add. The company is doing all it can to maintain reasonable margins.

Turnover of the company, which came to the market in July, improved from £2.7m to £2.53m in the half-year. Exports accounted for just under half the production, the directors say, but the strong pound is preventing the company from exploiting this market to the full.

There is an interim dividend of 1.7p net last year's single payment amounted to 3.5p. Half-year earnings per 10p share are shown down from 4.9p to 3.6p after tax of £137,000 (£112,000).

Hunslett (Hldgs) debenture redemption

Hunslett (Holdings) is to invite holders of the 4½ per cent debenture stock 1978-83 to tender for sale to the company for redemption at a price of £95 per cent including interest.

Tenders must be in not later than 3pm on July 11.

Elson & Robbins
(PVC foam—Spring units—Products for domestic appliance industry—Heating and ventilating products—Partitioning)

Interim Statement

	Six months to 31.03.80	Six months to 31.03.79	Six months to 30.03.79
Turnover	12,271	9,552	19,957
Profit before tax	1,124	950	2,329
Less tax	451	459	103
Net profit after tax	673	491	2,226
Extraordinary items	—	—	8
	673	491	2,218
Attributable to minority shareholder	10	7	(4)
	663	484	2,222

Earnings per share based on 9,900,000 Ordinary Shares (1979—6,600,000) 6.68p 7.31p

Interim dividend per share 1.509p 1.509p

Interim dividend per share with associated tax credit at 30% (1979—33%) 2.156p 2.252p

Interim dividend paid by the Company to its shareholders £148,391 £99,594

Notes:
1. These results are unaudited.
2. Corporation Tax has been charged at the appropriate rates on the profits of the Group.
3. The interim dividend has been maintained at the same level as 1979 but on the increased ordinary shares of 9,900,000 (1979—6,600,000).

Dividend Warrants will be payable on the 22nd July, 1980; to members registered at the close of business on 20th June, 1980.

Results for the half year show an increase in sales and profit. This is particularly pleasing as during the period we had a prolonged steel strike, and our subsidiary Company, Thos. K. Webster (U.K.) Limited sustained a loss of £112,246. Market conditions for this subsidiary are still very difficult and I do not expect any recovery during the second half of the financial year.

Group turnover for the half year is £12,271,433 and profits £1,123,875.

We will not be immune from the general economic climate but still feel that we should conclude our year satisfactorily, 10th June, 1980.

E. R. KEELING, Chairman

Edbro falls £1.78m as interest and closure costs take toll

A SHARP fall from £1.43m to £779,000 in the second half, following the £1.13m downturn midway, left taxable profits of Edbro (Holdings) substantially lower for the year to March 31, 1980, at £1.24m, against £3.02m.

However, the net total dividend of this tipper gear manufacturer is being maintained at 9.03p, with an unchanged final of 6.76p.

The half-time dive to £464,000 (£1.59m) reflected the effects of the engineering strike and overtime ban. But the directors said in December that the group had returned to full production and demand continued to be strong. They added that second-half profits should be back to normal.

The full-year taxable surplus was struck after considerably higher interest charges of £1.22m (£597,000), but included interest received down from £13,000 to £70,000 and share of associates' profits of £50,000 (£71,000).

Mr. Larry Tindale, chairman, said yesterday that most of the re-organisation in European operations had been completed, and costs included in the figures.

Closure costs in European operations wiped around £500,000 from the profits total, while the group estimated a further £500,000 was lost in the UK as a result of the engineering strike.

Operations in the UK are to be consolidated and the group plans to sell two of its sites in Bolton, and another in Manchester. Some £4m is expected to be raised from the sales—a £1.5m surplus over book value.

But Mr. Tindale admitted finding a buyer, particularly for the Bolton sites, might prove difficult.

Some £14m—net of Government grants—is to be spent on construction of a new warehouse adjoining the group's main factory.

Commenting on the current year, the 50mp said capacity is now some per cent higher and orders are holding up. For the full year, profits at the trading level should show an improvement.

Turnover improved from £32.57m to £35.47m.

Stated earnings per 25p share were down from 23.6p to 17.3p after a tax credit of £240,000, against a £1.05m charge.

● comment

Edbro has been forced into what it describes as a highly defensive strategy of cash conservation. The reasons will be familiar enough to those in manufacturing, export-oriented, industry but the result has been a severe decline in profits, a £2.5m rise in net debt and little or no CCA cover for a maintained dividend. Edbro's response has been to renege on its Bolton base, putting properties with a book value of some £2.5m up for sale at a premium of about £1.5m and to relinquish direct control of the Continental distribution network, leaving a 30 per cent minority interest in costs.

At £500,000 in Holland have been charged above the line in the second half and, to some extent, help explain the disappointing lack of forecast recovery in this period. The profitable sale of a

largish portfolio of industrial property may take some doing but at least the European withdrawal has released some £1.5m of stock to alleviate the underlying strain on working capital. Capacity has risen by a quarter in the last 12 months but at least Edbro is confident that it can sell its production in the first half even if the order book has shortened noticeably. The shares have taken all this quite calmly, entrenched near the annual low of 100p for the past month or so. Certainly the historic yield of 13.5 per cent at 102p is cautious, and rightly so, but by no means alarmist.

Today's company meetings

Black and Edgington, 116 Pall Mall, SW 1, 12.30. Dremaland, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC 1, 12.30. Empire Stores, Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford, 12.30. Hunting Petroleum Services, 118 Park Lane, W 12.30. Jessel Towbe, 30 Cornhill, EC 3, 3.30. John Lewis Partnership, 4 Old Cavendish Street, W 12.30. News International, Plaisteads' Hall, 1 London Wall, John Lewis Properties, 4 Old Cavendish Street, W 11. Richardson, Westgarth, St. Ermins Hotel, Caxton Street, SW 1. Smith, St. Aubyn, White Lion Court, Cornhill, EC 2. A. G. Stanley, Stanley House, Cray Avenue, Orpington, Kent 4. George Willis, Epworth House, 23 City Road, EC 11.15.

British Investment Trust

Highlights from the Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 1980:

Year to 31st March	Total Assets £	Total Revenue £	Earnings p	Dividend p	NAV per Ord. Share p
1976	120,323,000	4,746,000	3.55	3.50	171%
1977	118,353,000	5,325,000	4.36	4.30	175%
1978	126,015,000	5,603,000	4.80	4.85	188%
1979	139,461,000	6,158,000	6.11	5.70	211%
1980	122,829,000	8,315,000	8.18	7.85	184%

REVENUE
Total revenue showed a very satisfactory increase of some 35% over the previous year. In the UK there was a substantial increase in dividends received, partly reflecting the release of accumulated payments after the abolition of dividend controls. Interest on short term deposits was greatly increased, due to the higher levels of deposits maintained during the year and the high rates of return obtained. Revenue from gifts and properties was also higher. Overseas revenue was reduced by the continuing strength of Sterling and some repatriation of funds to the UK.

DIVIDEND
In view of the large increase in revenue the Board have declared dividends for the year totalling 7.85p per share, an increase of some 37%, including a special dividend of 0.85p per share paid out of the exceptional U.K. dividends received.

CAPITAL
A combination of a declining U.K. stock market, the firm trend of Sterling against virtually all foreign currencies and the abolition of the investment currency premium had an adverse effect on the value of the assets. Despite a good market performance from the North American investments and a reasonable increase in the valuation of the properties, there was an overall reduction in total assets of £16½ million and the Net Asset Value fell by 12½% to 184½p per share.

PROSPECTS
The international economic outlook is not encouraging with the likelihood of a fairly severe world-wide recession and the unstable situation in the Middle East. In the U.K. the growing benefit of North Sea oil should substantially offset the otherwise uncertain economic prospects, while overseas markets continue to offer on a selective basis attractive investment opportunities in the current difficult economic and political climate.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, The British Investment Trust Limited, 46 Castle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3BB.

Fine Art Developments
-mail order and greeting cards-

25 YEARS OF PROGRESS
"... we are constantly improving the appeal of our card and gift mail order catalogues and the range and quality of our greeting cards... I am confident that the Group will continue to develop its business."

F. R. KERRY, Chairman

Year ended 31st March	1980 £000's	% Increase
SALES	£58,062	+ 19.9
TRADING PROFIT	£7,274	+ 16.2
PROFIT before tax	£6,057	+ 9.3
DIVIDENDS per share	2.500p	+ 22.0
EARNINGS per share (without provision for deferred tax)	11.668p	+ 30.7

Fine Art Developments Limited

The 1980 Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary at Fine Art House, Queen Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 3LP.

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

BELGRAVE (BLACKHEATH) (longing and machinery) Results for year ended January 31, 1980, already reported. Shareholders' funds £2.98m (£2.76m); bank overdraft £22,575 (£744,864). Chairman says company is in good shape to remain competitive and profitable. Meeting, Birmingham, July 1, noon.

BURRELL AND CO. (chemical pigment manufacturer) Results for 1979, and prospects, reported May 10. Bank overdraft £22,575 (£744,864). Shareholders' funds £4.82m (£4.19m). Triennial property valuation as at year-end revealed surplus of £1.7m. Meeting, 44 Broadway, Stratford, E. June 30, 3 pm.

CONSTRUCTION HOLDINGS (investment trust)—Interim dividend 5.6p (8.5p for 15 months). Pre-tax profit £91,028 for six months to March 31, 1980. Tax £23,000. Earnings per share 6.5p.

COOPER (trousers, jeans, skirts, casual wear)—Results for 1979 already known. Capital reserves £3.42m (£2.14m). Revenue reserves £3.73m (£2.77m). Bank balances and cash £7.85m (£7.1m). Bank indebtedness £5.28m (£3.47m) of which £3.6m (£1.88m) relates to subsidiaries' commitments £126,513 (£76,574). Meeting, Cafe Royal, W. June 26, at noon.

MILLETTS (textiles) Results for year ended January 26, 1980, with prospects reported May 8. Shareholders' funds £5.20m (£3.19m). Bank overdraft (share £100,000) nil. Loans £409,000 (£248,000). Meeting, Abchurch House, EC 4, July 8, noon.

JOHN MOWLES (civil engineering, construction)—Results for 1979, already known. Shareholders' funds £31.84m (£25.37m). Reserves, £28.88m (£21.41m). Overheads and loans £1.64m (£1.43m). Debtors and work in progress £25.32m (£18.5m). Meeting, Brentford, Middlesex, July 2, at 11 am.

PICKLES AND CO. (textiles)—Results for 1979 with prospects reported May 28 in full preliminary statement. Shareholders' funds £8.36m (£8.15m). Bank overdraft and loans £4.48m (£1.36m). Meeting, Manchester, July 3, 10.30.

PYRAMID GROUP (PUBLISHERS)—Results for 1979 reported May 30. Capital employed £350,790 (£244,531). Bank deposits £24,562 (£284,531). Cash and bank balances £78,997 (£41,845). Shareholders' funds £254,281 (£206,644). Meeting, Hilton Hotel, W. July 3, 10 am.

THOMSON BRITISH HOLDINGS (subsidiary of Thomson Equitable Corporation)—Turnover for 1979 £84.8m (£57.4m). Profit £171.5m (£136.5m) before tax of £128.8m (£85 m).

USM GROUP (builders' merchants)—Results for year to February 28, 1980, and prospects, reported May 30 in full preliminary statement. Group fixed assets £41.52m (£22.03m). Current assets £85.15m (£72.82m). Current liabilities £49.5m (£45.46m) including bank overdrafts, short-term loans and acceptances £1.02m (£3.55m). Net borrowings fell by £12.7m to £11.4m. Shareholders' funds £33.68m (£23.64m). Meeting, Bristol, July 2, at noon.

GEORGE WINPEY—Results for 1979 already reported with prospects for current year. Net assets employed, £444,800 (£338,871). Work in progress and stocks £297,02m (£202,46m). Bank overdrafts £34.8m (£27,34m). Loans £123.7m (£51.85m). Debtors £100.30 (£140.2m). Grove Charity Management holds £49.9 per cent of ordinary shares. Meeting, Royal Garden Hotel, W. July 3, at noon.

Office and Electronic Machines Limited
United Kingdom Distributors of Adler, Imperial and Triumph Typewriters, Calculators, and other Business Machines and Supplies.

Continued increase in Profits and dividends

Results for 1979	1979	1978	1977
Turnover	£26,457,190	£20,753,766	£17,603,682
Profit after Tax	1,431,028	1,072,367	930,732
Shareholders Funds per Share	126.0p	104.0p	87.0p
Earnings per Share	23.36p	17.5p	15.2p
Dividend per Share	6.5p	4.6p	4.1p

We are confident that the new products from Triumph-Adler will enable us to maintain our leading position in the market.

W.F.J. Gardiner
Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, 140-154 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JY.

Kennecott, Mitsubishi in mining deal

Prices tumble again in East-West air war

New Quebec move on Asbestos

Slower growth at West Point Pepperell

SoCal in shale oil project

Go-ahead for Diamond deal

to make an accommodation with Sir James, who had opposed the terms of the Brooks-Scanlon deal. That accommodation, announced last Friday, means that Cavenham will go ahead with a tender offer for a further 33 per cent of Diamond on top of the 5 per cent it already owns at an offer price of \$42 a share, \$2 higher than Sir James originally proposed.

Good first half for IHCC

The company's second quarter income was \$16m, compared with \$17.6m in the same period of 1978-79, on revenues of \$147m, against \$120m.

World Bank plans further \$200m Eurobond issue

Thailand seeks \$325m credit

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

Expansion costs check profits at Michelin

By Terry Doodsworth in Paris

HIGH RAW material costs and expenses arising from an ambitious overseas expansion programme are among the main reasons given by Michelin, the French tyre company, for a sharp fall in profits last year. Consolidated net profits dropped by almost 13 per cent from FF685m (\$163m) to FF598m. But Michelin argues in its report to shareholders that the benefits from overseas growth will take some time to appear. Meantime foreign developments entail heavy expenditure which cannot be immediately recouped. With plans for another plant in Nova Scotia, Canada, to serve the North American market, Michelin's desire for expansion in the U.S. and Canada does not seem in the least blunted by its results last year, when turnover was pushed up from FF270.7bn

to FF293.9bn.

In its report it stresses that the market situation was not particularly favourable. Apart from much higher raw material prices — a factor which fits Michelin less than some of its competitors because of its own rubber production — it complains vigorously of increased competition from Eastern European manufacturers whose retail prices, it suggests, are based on entirely different production costs.

In addition, it says that consumers were in a much tighter cash position last year, thus restraining their purchases, and that the market was growing less swiftly than in 1979. The company has been hit also by currency fluctuations, a problem which has been particularly acute for French groups

with big operations in the U.S. during a period when the franc has been strong against the dollar. Michelin's consolidated cash flow also fell last year to FF22.4bn compared with FF22.5bn in 1979. At the same time its long- and medium-term debt rose from FF59.9bn to FF68.5bn.

In a separate announcement, Michelin confirmed that its stake in Kleber-Colombes, the other large French tyre manufacturer which recently dissolved its links with Semperit of Austria, amounted to a little over 50 per cent. The group says that the consolidation of Kleber's losses, which have been extensive over the last few years, would not affect its present results because of previously made provisions

Adelaide Steamship buys stake in Bruck

By James Forth in Sydney

ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP Company, one of the most acquisition-minded companies in Australia, have moved again this week, disclosing a 13.5 per cent shareholding in the Victorian textile group, Bruck (Aust.). At the same time more than 4 per cent of the capital of Adelaide Steamship was traded on the Sydney Exchange on Monday. The purchase prompted suggestions that Adelaide itself was on the receiving end of a market raid.

It was disclosed later that the buyer of the Adelaide parcel was Howard Smith, the diversified shipping and group. Smith already held about 9 per cent of Adelaide's capital and the purchase would have given it more than 13 per cent. Smith intends to build its holding to almost 20 per cent.

Adelaide announced that it had bought 1,490 shares in Bruck (including 351,747 from the holding firm, Potter Partners) which represented the shortfall from a recent rights issue by Bruck. An unnamed party had been bidding for Bruck and on Monday the directors welcomed Adelaide as a major shareholder. They said that Adelaide had advised the board that its investment in Bruck was in accordance with its long term investment philosophy of acquiring significant interests in selected public companies. Adelaide has acquired many companies outright, but it has also built substantial holdings in others while retaining exchange listing.

Among the latter category are: Martin Wells; Luke Limited; Sidney Cooke; Clark Rubber; Robb and Brown; and Corinthian Industries. Adelaide did not comment on whether it planned further to increase its Bruck stake.

JAPANESE NEWS

Kubota doubles rate of sales growth

By Charles Smith, Far East Editor, in Tokyo

KUBOTA, JAPAN'S diversified manufacturer of farm machinery, pipes and household equipment, increased its parent company turnover during the twelve months ending in mid-April at almost twice the rate of the previous year. Sales rose by 8.3 per cent to ¥523.2bn (\$2,428m), compared with a 4.2 per cent rate of increase in 1979-80. Profits before tax were up by 8.7 per cent to ¥39.4bn and after-tax profits showed an 11 per cent rise to ¥22.01bn (\$1,020m).

Kubota is the largest Japanese tractor manufacturer with an estimated 35 per cent share of the local market for farm machinery. Tractors and other farm equipment account for 37 per cent of the company's turnover, but four other divisions — castings, pipes, environmental equipment, and home utilities.

The five divisions turned in widely differing performances with tractor sales growing at a

modest 5.7 per cent (owing to reduced government incentives for farmers) and sales by the environmental division falling. The fastest growing division were home utilities, up 21 per cent, and castings, up 20 per cent.

Despite stagnant sales of tractors in the U.S., the company's main overseas market, Kubota managed a 16 per cent increase in exports during the year, lifting the proportion of total sales from 11.4 per cent to just over 12 per cent. The strongest overseas performance was in the pipe division which increased turnover by 64 per cent mainly on the strength of Middle East orders.

Kubota expects to continue to rise faster than home sales, perhaps reaching 13 per cent of turnover in fiscal 1980.

The company expects turnover to reach ¥580bn during the current fiscal year, with faster growth in the second half resulting from planned price

increases. Operating profits may be squeezed during the first half by increases in utility rates but should hit ¥60bn for the year as a whole. Net income is forecast at ¥22bn, unchanged from 1979-80.

Kubota is paying a special dividend of ¥5.00 per share to celebrate the company's 90th anniversary. The dividend consists of the normal year-end payment of ¥3.75, and an additional payment of ¥1.25.

MARUI AND CO., the Japanese stores concern, plans an increase in dividends for the current year, to January, 1981, to commemorate its 50th anniversary. In the last fiscal year, the company reported an increase of 10.4 per cent in net income to ¥8bn (\$367m), a parent company basis, and a sales rise of 8.2 per cent to ¥214.1bn. For the current year, the company is looking for a rise in net income of 2.4 per cent, and a gain in sales of 3.7 per cent, Mr Tadao Aoi, president of Marui, said in London. Since the beginning of the current year, consumer spending in Japan had shown a very solid upturn. This had resulted from the fact that prices of consumer goods had been stable, and secondly, from the growing trend towards replacement purchases of consumer durables. Since the beginning of the year, Masui's rate of growth in sales had been high. The company's sales in February were 14.5 per cent above the same month last year, and growth rates on the same basis for March and April were 12.8 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively. The forecasts for net income were lower, than for net sales because of the increases in public utility charges, such as electric power rates, the increases in taxes and the rise in interest payments.

Move to rescue Spanish bank

By Peter Graham in Madrid

SPAIN DEPOSIT guarantee fund is stepped in to support an ailing bank for the third time since its powers were enlarged three months ago. Agreement was reached yesterday to refloat the ailing industrial bank, Banco Industrial del Mediterraneo (BIM).

It was absorbed last year by the Italian group, the largest banking operation in Catalonia which is centred on Banca Catalana. The move was carried out with considerable assistance from the Bank of Spain and was designed to prevent the BIM from going into the so-called "bank hospital," the Corporación Bancaria.

The rescue agreement involves a 50 per cent writedown

of BIM's capital of Pta 2,099m (\$94m) and an effective write off of reserves of Pta 500m. Subsequently the capital will be expanded to Pta 3.5bn with a share issue. This will be underwritten by the guarantee fund. Catalana said yesterday that it expected to acquire 85 per cent of the new equity.

In addition, the guarantee fund will provide unspecified fresh finance to secure doubtful debts and the writing down of existing BIM investments. Last year BIM made an operating loss of some Pta 600m, according to Catalana executives. But this excludes any provision for bad debts. Preparations are being made, with the aid of the Bank of Spain, for a special audit to determine the precise

state of BIM's losses.

Banca Catalana executives said yesterday they were satisfied with the deal which promises to remove a burden from the group. The situation of BIM was particularly delicate because of the connection of the new head of the Catalan autonomous Government, Sr. Jordi Pujol, with Catalana. He was a former president, and people associated with him and his family still run the Catalana group.

The enlarged deposit guarantee fund has some Pta 12bn available. So far two other banks have made use of the fund, Lopez Quesada and Banco de Madrid — the latter being weighed down by another Catalan industrial bank, Cadesbank.

Volkskas rights oversubscribed by 15 per cent

By Jim Jones in Johannesburg

VOLKSKAS, the South African banking group, has announced that its 6.48m share rights issue to raise R30m (\$38.7m) has been oversubscribed by 15 per cent.

Funds raised by the issue are earmarked for increasing the group's stake in various industrial subsidiaries and to provide them with additional development and working capital. The issue is Volkskas's third capital raising exercise in five years. In August, 1978 the group raised R15m through a private placing of preference shares, while R15.5m was raised through a rights issue of ordinary shares in September 1975.

Overseas Corporation seeks preferable offer

By our Sydney correspondent

OVERSEAS Corporation (Australia) has called off talks aimed at finding a counter offer to the A\$87m bid from McIlwraith-Davey Industries, but is now working on a "preferable alternative." The directors also disclosed an A\$15.7m (U.S.\$18m) revaluation of assets and forecast a 9 per cent increase in profit for the year to June 30, from A\$5.7m to A\$6.2m. After allowing for the 50 per cent share of the forecast profit of the aluminium manufacturer, Dowell (Australia) the earnings would rise to A\$7m, or 16.2 cents a share.

The asset revaluation would give an underlying asset backing of A\$1.70 for each Overseas share compared with the McIlwraith offer price of A\$1.35 a share. Directors of Overseas said the land and buildings of the group had been assessed by independent experts. The hardware group, McIlwraith, announced last month that it would take all shares offered on the market within a one month period. Before making its move, McIlwraith snapped up 20 per cent of the capital of Overseas and blocked its planned A\$85m merger with the meat

and cold storage group, Metro Meat. Overseas directors responded by retaining the merchant bank, Australian United Corporation, to "review the possibilities." The Board described the offer as inadequate, and on May 25 said that talks were taking place which could lead to a new takeover offer.

Yesterday, the Board said that these discussions had been terminated but that some companies continued to express interest in making an offer. AUC had completed the examination of the company's existing capital structure and prospects for long term growth. A scheme had been proposed which would enable Overseas to utilise its enormous cash resources for the benefit of all shareholders, and some initial discussions had taken place.

The directors added that they were optimistic that Overseas could provide shareholders with a preferable alternative to the "totally inadequate" McIlwraith bid.

Listing sought by Supersol Properties

By L. Daniel in Tel Aviv

SUPERSOL PROPERTIES, a wholly owned subsidiary of Supersol, Israel's second largest supermarket chain which is traded over the counter in Montreal and Toronto — has submitted to the Tel Aviv stock exchange a draft prospectus for the issue of shares and options with a nominal value of I\$65m (equivalent to \$14m).

Supersol Properties was formed last year to engage in the acquisition of properties for leasing (mainly, but not exclusively to the parent company). The new capital will enable it to expand its activities and give it the options of engaging in new construction. Supersol, the parent, is owned by 1,200 stockholders in Canada, the U.S., South America and Israel, but is not traded on the Tel Aviv exchange.

Argaman Industries to make debenture issue

By our Tel Aviv correspondent

ARGAMAN INDUSTRIES, Israel's leading company in the field of dyeing, finishing and printing which also controls a weaving mill and has two subsidiaries producing machinery and electronic control systems for the textile industry, has published a prospectus for the issue of \$3m nominal value of floating rate registered debentures 1983-90.

The interest rate is to be determined half-yearly in advance, at half of one per cent per annum above that paid on May 30 and September 30 respectively on local

residents' foreign currency accounts, or failing this, at 1 per cent below the London interbank offered rate. The maximum tax rate on the interest will be 25 per cent, whereas interest on foreign currency accounts can reach 60 per cent according to the holder's income.

The proceeds of the issue are to be used inter alia to set up a bed-linen plant using coloured materials produced by the weaving mill, and to expand the production facilities in the group's metal and electronics division.

U.S. unit for Scandinavian banks

By Fay Gjester in Oslo

OUR OF Scandinavia's leading banks have agreed to establish jointly a new bank in New York if it is approved by U.S. and Scandinavian authorities. The bank, as yet unnamed, is expected to start operations early next year.

Managing director, not yet chosen, will probably be a U.S. citizen with wide banking experience.

The four backers are Christiani Bank og Kreditkasse of Norway (recently merged with Amøysen Bank), Den Danske Bank of Denmark, PK-Banken of Sweden and Union Bank of Finland. Each will put up a quarter of the new bank's \$40m share capital.

At a Press conference in Oslo yesterday Christiani Bank said the new consortium bank will improve the competitiveness of its backers by extending the range and scope of their services. It would also enable them to pursue international opportunities, "which can best be catered for out of a well-developed international financial centre."

It would also provide a dollar funding base to help cover dollar commitments of the participating banks. The main activities of the new bank will be "financing of international business in general and in particular the support of Scandinavian and American trade and the provision of assistance to

customers contemplating investments on the American continent."

● Norpipe and Norpipe Petroleum UK, which operate pipelines from the Ekofisk field for gas to Emden, West Germany, and for oil to Teesside in the UK, and the Teesside terminal, reported combined turnover of Nkr 26m (\$412m) in 1979, up 57 per cent on a year earlier.

The companies moved about 30m tonnes of oil equivalent through the pipelines last year, compared with 24.5m in 1978. The Norpipe companies are owned 50-50 by Statoil, Norway's State oil company, and the Phillips Group.

Earnings drop at Svenska Handelsbanken

By Victor Kayfetz in Stockholm

SVENSKA Handelsbanken report January-April earnings of SKr 208m (\$60m), down 30 per cent from SKr 295m in the same period of 1979 and 38 per cent from SKr 333m in September-December. The decline resulted almost equally from lower income and higher costs.

Despite a 17 per cent volume rise on a daily-average basis, net interest income fell nearly 16 per cent to SKr 407m compared with the first four months last year, but commission and other revenues rose, so that total income dropped only 8 per cent to SKr 368m. Overall costs climbed 1.5 per cent to SKr 361m.

SEB's placement margin, the difference between return on all investments and the average cost of liabilities, dropped from .96 per cent in January-April last year to 2.13 per cent. Among reasons were the bank's large holdings of fixed-interest bonds in a period of higher discount rates, the faster rise of deposit interest than discount rates, and central bank cash quotas that for most of the first four months of 1980 stood at 8 per cent compared with 2 per cent throughout the corresponding period of 1979. The cash quota was nevertheless cut to 2 per cent on April 14, releasing SKr 2.3bn, which SEB has used for higher-yielding investments.

Paribas expects to pay increased dividend

PARIS — Cie Financière de Paris et des Pays-Bas, holding company of the Paribas banking and industrial group, expects to pay a higher dividend this year if net earnings per share are at least equal to 1979's. Shareholders were told at the annual general meeting.

The holding company had net profit of FF219.5m (\$49.9m) in 1979 against FF192.4m a year earlier. Its net dividend of FF15 a share, against FF13.30 on 1978's results, amounts to total dividends of FF218.2m, the largest payout by a French corporation. But before the holding company can raise its dividend this year, the group will have to offset

the dilution of earnings caused by the absorption of the Pierre-Henry-Aubry chemicals group earlier this year. M. Pierre Moussa, Financier de Paribas' president, said.

M. Moussa said Paribas' market capitalisation has reached FF23.8bn, making it the largest publicly-traded financial and banking institution on the Paris bourse and the sixth largest French public company.

He estimated the group's net assets at FF11.5bn. The group, which is already present in 47 countries, intends to open nine more overseas units by the beginning of next year. AP-DJ.

Inflation hits Alitalia

By our financial staff

REVENUE INCREASES at Alitalia during the first quarter of 1980 have failed to keep pace with inflation, the Italian State-owned airline said yesterday.

First quarter capacity rose by 28.2 per cent and revenues were 65 per cent higher. But the upsurge represents recovery rather than growth since labour disputes paralysed Alitalia in February and March of 1979. The company said higher fuel costs added L50bn (\$60m) to its costs in the quarter. An Italian parliamentary committee

is expected shortly to grant a 15 per cent rise in domestic air tariffs to help Alitalia recoup part of the additional costs.

The airline posted a net loss of nearly L3.8bn in 1979 compared with profit of L1.4bn a year earlier. Last year's deficit would have been L1.4bn but for a transfer from reserves.

A capital increase in November to L120bn is planned. A further rise to L240bn is likely by the end of 1982. Meanwhile Alitalia's medium and long term debt will have grown to L380bn.

We have pleasure in announcing the establishment of our representative office in Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany, headed by Dr. Mathijs van den Adel.

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Clifford Campbell
Vice President and Secretary
June 6, 1980

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APPOINTMENTS

Rank Xerox managing director

Mr. Paul A. Allaire, at present deputy managing director of RANK XEROX, has been appointed managing director. On July 1 he succeeds Mr. William F. Glavin, who has held that post since 1974 and who takes up the position of executive vice president and senior staff officer at Xerox Corporation headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut, U.S. Mr. Allaire joined Xerox Corporation in the U.S. in 1966 as a financial analyst. From 1970 to 1973 he was assigned to Rank Xerox in London as director of financial planning and control. From 1973 to 1975 he returned to Xerox corporate headquarters, latterly as director, international staff. Returning to the UK in 1975, Mr. Allaire was elected to the Board of Rank Xerox and became chief staff officer. He was made deputy managing director of Rank Xerox in November, 1979.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto, has made the following appointments within its wholly owned subsidiary, CIBC LIMITED, of London. Mr. Rainer Plentl becomes managing director. Mr. Plentl's recent assignment with CIBC was manager, Paris branch. Mr. James B. Clark has been made deputy managing director. Mr. Clark's career includes senior appointments with American Express International Banking Corporation and Nesbitt Thomson Securities.

Mr. Plentl is not managing director of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as reported yesterday.

Mr. Bill Seel, chairman of Edwin Seel, has been elected president 1980-81 of the BRITISH PRINTING INDUSTRIES FEDERATION. Lord Ebbisham, a director of Williams Lea and Co, has been re-elected honorary treasurer. Mr. Peter Stephenson, chairman of T. Stephenson and Sons, is assistant honorary treasurer. No vice-presidents have been appointed but Lord Ebbisham and Mr. Stephenson are to assist the president in the duties of vice-president as necessary. Mr. Stanley Clarke, immediate past president 1979-80, is to continue in that office for the ensuing year in place of Mr. Peter Medcalf, retiring president.

Mr. R. T. S. Macpherson is to become chairman of the council of the LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. He will succeed Mr. D. J. King of King and Co, whose two year term of office is now at an end. Mr. Macpherson is deputy chairman and managing director of Mallinson-Denny, director Societe Financiere J. Lalanne, France and director Scottish Timber Products. The new deputy chairman of the council will be Mr. Geoffrey Nichols, chairman and managing director of Rolaprint. Mr. Nichols is chairman of the UK/Korea Economic Co-operation Group and of the BOTB advisory groups for trade with Korea and Japan.

China's taxes for foreign venturers

BY RICHARD D. POMP AND OLIVER OLDMAN*

THE INITIAL euphoria accompanying the new Chinese Joint Venture Law (JVL) has now subsided.

Although the JVL is long on principles, it is short on details. Presumably, those details will be forthcoming as the Chinese are drafting laws governing patents, foreign exchange, contracts, and taxation, and are negotiating specific arrangements such as concession-type agreements.

While the business community eagerly awaits these developments, it may come as a surprise to learn that the Chinese have had a tax system as such since the 1950s. Indeed, at least nine taxes currently exist in China. Foreigners have had little contact with these taxes in the past and it is unclear what potential liabilities may be lurking. Although some of the nine taxes will have modest impact on foreign business (for example, the slaughter tax or the salt tax), at least two taxes—the consolidated industrial and commercial tax and the income tax—may have serious implications for foreign investors.

The consolidated tax can be described generally as a broad-based turnover tax or as a combination of cascading sales and excise taxes. It is imposed at each stage of production when goods or services are transferred from entity to entity. The tax is also levied at the retail level when the goods or services are sold to the ultimate consumer. No credit is provided for any tax previously paid on the purchase of goods or services.

Over 100 categories of industrial and agricultural products are subject to the consolidated tax. The rates applicable to these items range from 1.5 per cent to 60 per cent. More than 40 different rates exist within this range, and a 5 per cent catch-all rate applies to any industrial product that is not specifically listed in the law. Services are subject to four tax rates, ranging from 2.5 per cent to 7 per cent. A 3 per cent rate applies to commercial retailing.

while local governments may levy a 1 per cent surtax on the consolidated tax.

The cascading effect of the tax is not necessarily avoided by firms that are vertically integrated. The consolidated tax applies to certain items produced by an enterprise even if used by the same enterprise in further production. The same rule is applied to products manufactured by an industrial enterprise and used by it for capital construction.

The extent to which the consolidated tax will be applied to particular types of foreign investment remains uncertain. For example, will the tax apply to the importation of technology by a joint venture? Will the Government levy a tax on the

except for state enterprises. Income is taxed under a set of progressive rates, ranging from 5.75 per cent to 34.5 per cent. The 34.5 per cent rate is reached at the equivalent of £2,600. In addition, a surtax is imposed ranging from 10 per cent to 100 per cent. Some persons have been told that the amount of the surtax varies from region to region and from enterprise to enterprise, though others have been told that the surtax is imposed uniformly throughout China at a rate of 60 per cent.

Even though the existing income tax appears to cover joint ventures, it is clearly inadequate for dealing with the problems raised by foreign investment. The law is far too

sketchy to be of much guidance in taxing sophisticated business transactions.

The JVL refers to a new joint venture income tax as well as a personal income tax, although neither has yet been enacted. Even once enacted, however, the new joint venture income tax might not apply to all types of foreign investment, since the JVL provides for a reduction of, or an exemption from, income tax under two circumstances. First, a joint venture equipped with up-to-date technology by world standards may apply for a reduction of, or exemption from income tax for up to the first three profit-making years. Second, a foreign participant reinvesting any part of its share of its net profit may apply for a refund of a part of the income tax paid.

At present, the Chinese do not appear to have determined the extent to which they are willing to grant these tax incentives. Initially, some foreign businessmen advised the Chinese to grant these tax incentives rather liberally. The Chinese were also aware that incentives were used by Indonesia, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

More recently, however, the Chinese have learned that many observers question the efficiency and the effectiveness of tax incentives. The Chinese also realise that their country's strong, natural attraction for investors from abroad should make the role of tax incentives less important than it is in

China's withholding tax on dividends distributed to foreign corporations. There is no reason to suppose that the Chinese would be unwilling to enter into such a treaty, though China might prefer the UN guidelines for a tax treaty between developed and developing countries rather than the OECD model that is preferred by the developed countries.

The enactment of the JVL also looks forward to a modern income-tax on individuals. Once the more pressing need for a modern corporate tax has been satisfied, it is reasonable to expect attention to focus next on designing an income-tax applicable to foreign individuals resident in China.

Speculating about the future role of the consolidated industrial and commercial tax is more difficult. The Chinese are aware that the cascading or pyramiding feature of the tax can produce a substantial burden on certain types of foreign investment. They also understand that most countries will not grant the foreign tax credit for the consolidated tax. Nonetheless, the JVL provides an exemption only from the income-tax, not from the consolidated tax. It is understood, however, that the cascading or pyramiding feature of the consolidated tax is to be re-evaluated.

Although the Chinese have studied Value Added Tax, which provides a credit for prior taxes paid and thus eliminates cascading, no change appears imminent. Moreover, most of the rates in the consolidated tax have existed for about 30 years and have been built into the state-controlled price structure. Consequently, changes in the consolidated tax involve fundamental changes in the economic system. No wonder, therefore, that these difficult tax decisions are likely to be made slowly and perhaps on a venture-by-venture basis.

* Professor Pomp is Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut and Professor Oldman is Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Wednesday June 11 1980

Yorkshire and Humberside

Energy centre of England

By Rhys David

THE ENERGY-PRODUCING centre of England is how Yorkshire and Humberside likes to see itself — a region fortunate enough to be sitting on one of the most essential of modern materials and possessed of a citizenry able to take full advantage of it.

It is a claim based not on oil but on good old-fashioned coal, large quantities of which have been discovered in Yorkshire in the past decade and are due to be brought to the surface from the new Selby coalfield within the next few years. Some 50,000 tonnes of coal a day will be emerging from the Selby field, which is costing more than £500m to develop and will yield over a 25-year period 250m tonnes. Known reserves in the area are 10 times as great, however, so that Yorkshire is likely to remain Britain's biggest coal-producing region well into the next century.

The destination for much of the coal from Selby and the other older coal-mining areas in South and West Yorkshire is the electricity industry — again strongly represented throughout the region and a major contributor to the power used in other parts of Britain as well. Selby in particular will feed the Central Electricity Generating Board's major new development at Drax, where the existing power station is being doubled in size. Elsewhere in the region, Humberside is a reception point for gas from the fields in the southern part of the North Sea

and an important centre for the oil-based petrochemical industry.

This energy wealth is for Yorkshire the buttress which over the long-term will ensure both its continued prosperity and a growing importance to the UK economy as a whole. It has also occurred to local politicians that it offers the area a potentially strong bargaining card to be used in the battle to secure a fairer distribution of wealth between it and the more prosperous South. "In return for providing the energy raw materials we will want to be sure we receive the resources necessary to deal with the environmental, social and other problems that we have inherited or will be creating," the leader of one of the area's local authorities points out.

But while Yorkshire sees Selby and associated developments as its energy card, the prospects of future gain are not at present helping to protect the area from the serious short-term problems which it is experiencing along with all other parts of Britain. Nor has the relatively well diversified industrial base of Yorkshire and Humberside been of much help at a time when high interest rates, a strong pound, increased EEC competition, recession-hit markets worldwide and growing international protectionism are affecting virtually all industry at the same time.

On the Humber the number of jobs dependent on the deep-sea fishing industry has fallen from 14,000 as recently as 10 years ago to fewer than 5,000 as a result of the loss of fishing grounds off Iceland and Norway and increased competition from EEC countries, many of them believed to be fishing beyond the strict quotas laid down for catches.

Bradford, Huddersfield and a number of other West Yorkshire towns have been similarly affected by a sharp decline in wool textiles. Employment in the industry has gone down by 10,000 in the past year to around 60,000 as a result of greatly increased penetration of the UK market by imported clothing. This in turn has led to a major reduction in employment in the clothing industry itself, much of it concentrated in Leeds. Sheffield too has been

Within a few years, 50,000 tons of coal a day will be mined from the new Selby field. But this does not alleviate short term problems which the region faces with the rest of Britain. However, tourism is being developed and the area is well placed to take advantage of growing trade and investment links with the Continent.

seriously hit by the problems of two of its principal sectors — steel and cutlery.

In steel the privately-owned companies specialising in stainless, tool, high-speed and other alloy steels have been struggling with weak market demand in the UK since the 1974 steel industry recession and are also having to contend with cheap imports from France, W. Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Spain, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe. In the publicly-owned sector, the British Steel Corporation is faced with the task of rebuilding customer confidence following the three-month strike earlier this year.

In cutlery some 90 per cent of the market for stainless steel knives, forks and spoons has been captured by importers, which has forced the local industry to concentrate almost entirely on higher-priced items.

Other industries throughout Yorkshire and Humberside are also being affected by the UK's loss of competitiveness across a broad field of products in domestic and overseas markets. Though the region has no motor vehicle production, it does have a number of companies engaged in the supply of components and these have been affected by the loss to imports of more than half the UK motor market. BL itself has had to abandon plans to redevelop, at a cost of £25m, its aluminium foundries in Leeds.

Again because of the weak overall state of the UK economy the rate of inward investment into the area has been slow and the gap between jobs lost and jobs created has been growing. Yet in trying to persuade new industry to come and settle, most of the region will be able

from 1982 to offer only a narrower range of investment incentives following the Government's re-drawing of development area boundaries. The abolition of the Yorkshire and Humberside Economic Planning Council, together with the other regional councils, has also removed one of the voices able to communicate with Government the needs and reactions of the area.

The result inevitably has been to place the onus for securing economic regeneration much more squarely on the shoulders

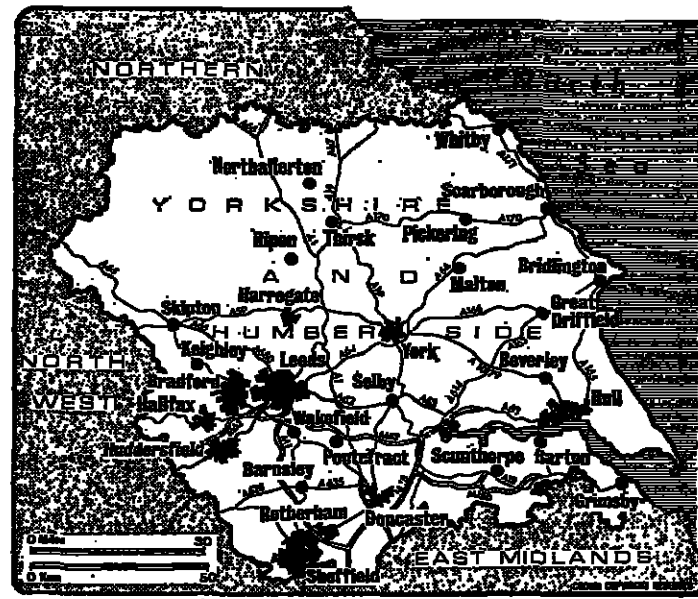
of the local authorities, and each of the four county councils covering the region, together with their constituent districts, has been investigating possible new initiatives aimed at influencing the pattern of economic development. Thus South Yorkshire has been active in the development of industrial estates, while on Humberside the availability of very large quantities of land on the Humber estuary is being offered as an inducement for major petrochemical plant development.

In West Yorkshire the county has put its own resources behind an action committee aimed at linking all the various bodies concerned with the problems of the wool and clothing industries. It is also hoping to attract EEC funds for its scheme for textile area regeneration (STAR), the framework through which it hopes aid for improving the environment and stimulating new employment opportunities can be channelled.

In North Yorkshire much of the effort is concentrated on strengthening the existing tourism potential of the area, which includes in York one of the UK's principal tourist attractions.

The vacuum created by the disbanding of the Economic Planning Council is also enabling the Standing Conference of County Councils in the region to develop its role further. Even though, as might be expected, there are very considerable differences in a region embracing the North Yorks Moors and the Sheffield steel industry, the Bronte country and the Humber ports, the Standing Conference has also found a number of areas of common interest where it has proved possible to consider issues and make decisions based on the wider interest of Yorkshire and Humberside as a whole.

Thus the predominantly rural North Yorkshire county is now having to come to grips with major mining development as a result of Selby, and will have to face environmental and other problems already familiar in South and West Yorkshire. Communications is another area where there is clearly scope for a co-ordinated approach, as also is waste disposal. A joint study



is being undertaken to see whether waste generated in coal-mining areas could not be disposed of in Humberside, where it might be used to prevent coastal erosion.

The region is at the crossroads of the UK motorway network, and well positioned through the Humber to take advantage of growing trade and investment links with the Continent. The very deep involvement of its industry in overseas trade — dating back in the case of wool textiles for well over 100 years — has encouraged a number of foreign banks to establish northern offices in Leeds, including the Banque Nationale de Paris.

Leeds has also proved to be an attractive centre for merchant banks such as Hill Samuel and N. M. Rothschild, both of which are among those offering a range of services from the city. One of the few surviving regional banks in Britain — the Yorkshire Bank — is also headquartered in Leeds.

The building society movement, which owes its origins to the growth of industry and housing in the last century in the textile towns of the North, also remains a major employer in Yorkshire. Five of the top 20 UK building societies in

terms of assets are based in the region, including the biggest of all, the Halifax.

Through Leeds/Bradford airport, the region is also integrated into the European air network.

The region would dearly like to start building on the strengths that do exist before the decline in older industries, such as textiles, goes any further. Whether this will be possible is going to depend on the length and severity of the present recession and the Government's own economic strategy. For Yorkshire that is sadly something it can "do nowt about."

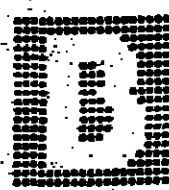
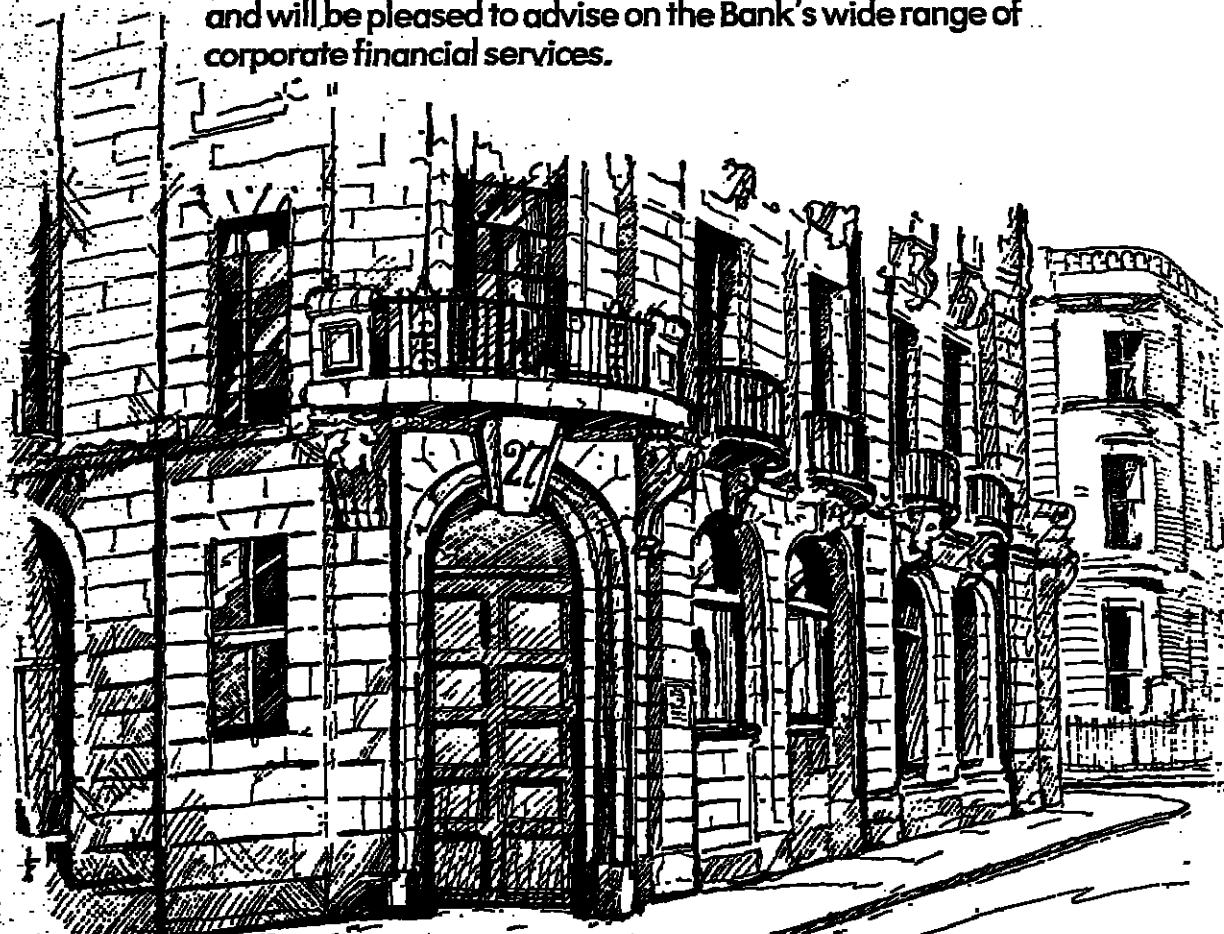
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the country and provides you with a fast, direct link to Heathrow, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Norwich, Teesside and Amsterdam.

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It is a little known fact, but Humberside is a very attractive area indeed for any workforce on the move.

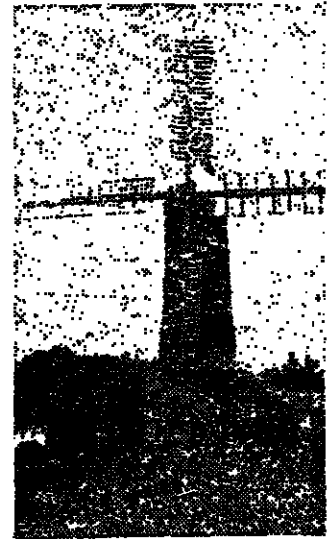
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The County Council's role is to create the right environment to attract the entrepreneur and to enable business to develop. In fulfilling that role a high percentage



of manufacturing and service industries have received development approval from the Council over the past five years.

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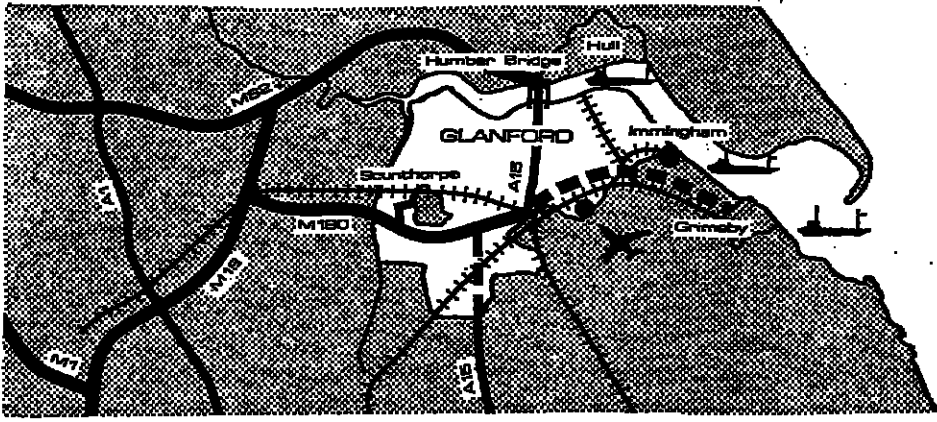
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YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE II

Textile industry faces paradox

YORKSHIRE'S WOOL textile industry, as the recent report of its export corporation points out, finds itself placed—and not for the first time—in a paradoxical situation.

On the one hand, exports last year showed a further modest advance over the 1978 record, reaching a total of \$408m, and have again this year been performing well. The industry, for a long time strong in Middle East and Far East markets, has begun to make bigger inroads in Europe, with the volume of both woollen and worsted exports to France (as well as the value) showing a firm advance last year. Sales of woollens to the U.S. are also being well sustained despite high tariffs and there have been significant increases in recent years in the sales of worsteds to Canada.

On the other, while exports are a continuing source of strength to the industry—as public statements by a number of its leaders have made clear—is very concerned at the continued erosion of its domestic base. The then chairman of the Wool Textile Delegation, Mr. Tom Hibbert, warned last autumn that there was mounting disillusionment within the industry with the EEC, which was not taking enough steps, he argued, to protect textiles from unfair competition from low-cost producers.

The EEC's Commissioner for Industry, Viscount Davignon, was persuaded to visit Yorkshire in April to be shown the extent to which the industry had—in accordance with all the good advice it has received—re-equipped and modernised. At one stop he was asked to view an audio-visual presentation intended to demonstrate how the industry has nevertheless continued to contract. Job losses in the past year have totalled more than

10,000, and import penetration of the UK market for woollen and worsted cloth has increased from 22 per cent in 1975 to 45 per cent last year.

The biggest problem in woollen cloth is presented by Italy, which in Yorkshire is regarded as just another low-cost producer. The Italians, it is claimed, organise their production in such a way as to avoid the social charges, taxes and other overheads which fall on other EEC producers, but repeated attempts by the UK wool textile industry to persuade Brussels that this represents a case for action by the EEC have proved unsuccessful.

No strategy

The UK Government has also come in for its fair share of industry criticism for the havoc being caused in the home market. Mr. Barry Spencer, president of the Confederation of British Wool Textiles, the new pan-industry body set up to represent the wool textile case, claimed recently that while the Government had well-defined financial policies it had no strategy to help British industry sustain itself against the shattering effects of those policies. "An exchange rate policy which makes exporting harder and importing easier and a monetary policy which depresses home demand and makes the cost of holding stock exorbitant are together a recipe for disaster," he warned.

The industry's unhappiness about present policies and their effect in terms of mill closures is also felt very strongly by the unions. The National Union of Dyers and Bleachers has followed up a call at its conference last year for nationalisation of the sector with a demand this year for UK withdrawal



The polymer plant operating floor at ICI Fibres' Wilton works, where Terylene yarns are produced.

from the EEC. "Workers who have spent a lifetime in the textile industry are being cast on the scrap-heap of unemployment with little regard for their loyalty and no apparent concern for the social consequences," Mr. L. Herd, president of the union, told the conference last month.

But while the industry is likely to continue with its effort to secure the changes it wants in EEC and Government policies, it has also been reminded again this year that its own approach needs to be constantly examined. The Wool Textile Economic Development Committee (EDC) recently pointed out—on the basis of a study carried out by its consultants—that buyers on the Continent, while anxious to purchase more British cloth and reduce their dependence on the Italians, were nevertheless

The EDC has also suggested that the UK industry might have much to learn from the Italian approach to marketing fabrics—a method which relies on a system of marketing men, or representatives, who co-ordinate the activities of small manufacturers. The representatives, according to the report, carry out market research, translate market requirements into design concepts, decide on style and quality, buy the materials, commission the manufacturers to do the work and then market the finished fabric throughout Europe. The system is said to be attuned to fashion and the EDC claims, has enabled the Italian to operate very flexibly and to innovate with an assurance the UK industry lacks.

European approach

A more European approach, much of the industry now recognises, is needed and could help create the large home market which the industry claims it needs if it is to achieve the necessary economies of scale. "There is an opportunity here which we must try to develop by designing and producing products for the home market along lines which are acceptable to other members of the EEC," Mr. Barry Spencer remarked recently.

The industry's principal concern is that the pressure on it this year—from higher interest rates, rising imports, the strong pound and the deepening world recession—will result in further capacity and jobs being lost before the changes that are needed have taken place. Yorkshire's wool textile industry, like so much of the rest of the textile industry, is entering perhaps its most crucial race yet against time.

Rhys David

Steelmen hope for brighter future

SHEFFIELD HAS just won the title of "A City in Bloom." This is an award for the best floral display in a town centre. "I understand our winning has caused at least 44 heart attacks in Harrogate," says Mr. Michael Francis, industrial development officer. When this was quoted a couple of hours later to an unemployed steelworker he was unimpressed. "Flowers are about all that's bloomin' in Sheffield these days," he said.

The fortunes of Sheffield hinge on steel and its allied industries. And a chill wind has blown for years in those industries—once they employed 60 per cent of the city's labour force. Now the figure is down to 45 per cent.

"Yes," said Mr. John S. Pennington, managing director of the new Yorkshire and Humberside division of the British Steel Corporation. "Steel has shed 1,100 jobs a year for the past 12 years. In Sheffield we are coming down to 3m tons of manned capacity."

The division is housed in handsome headquarters in Sheffield's neighbouring town of Rotherham. It stands just opposite the famous Templeborough rolling mill where £23m is being spent on new billet casting plant, a consoling sight for officials inside headquarters as they try to fight back against all the industry's troubles.

Nobody in Sheffield wants to talk much about the recent strike. The attitude is: "It's over now. Let's salvage what we can." And nobody, not even the most entrenched reactionary, pretends that labour relations are the only problem in the industry. Workers around the pubs wonder where the MacGregor axe may fall, but still manage to keep cheerful.

Mr. Pennington is no pessimist but he makes no attempt to hide the industry's problems. Another problem facing him is the massive rise in electricity costs which is imminent. "That is going to put up our costs by 30 per cent in an average year," he said. "Just think what that means—£1m just for one division."

He emphasises the international nature of the problem. "We have got processes here in

Sheffield better than anything in Europe," he says. "We have sold in Europe—to the multi-nationals and the French and German car-makers, and we have closely supported our home motor accessory companies."

"The problem now is the strength of sterling. The Sheffield steel industry could live with a strong pound or rising inflation, but not both together. We have a very productive workforce in this division and good management. Given the right conditions, there is no reason why things shouldn't improve."

Mr. Pennington's confidence was echoed by Mr. Francis. "The steel industry is fighting back," he said, "and as heavy industry runs down, we're attracting new industries into the town, but like all modern, highly automated industries, they don't provide anything like the number of jobs that have been lost."

In Sheffield, as in many cities, you will find steelworkers who can't get jobs while their wives probably can. Mr. Francis said one of the main switches in the local economy in recent years has been the growing number of vacancies for women. Like other cities, it is searching for service industries, knowing full well that the heavy industries will never again employ the labour forces of past years.

Interest

Manpower Services is setting up an office in Sheffield, and is providing about 300 jobs. The Midland Bank has opened a huge office in the city, and diversity of companies has shown interest in the recently developed factory sites along the River Don.

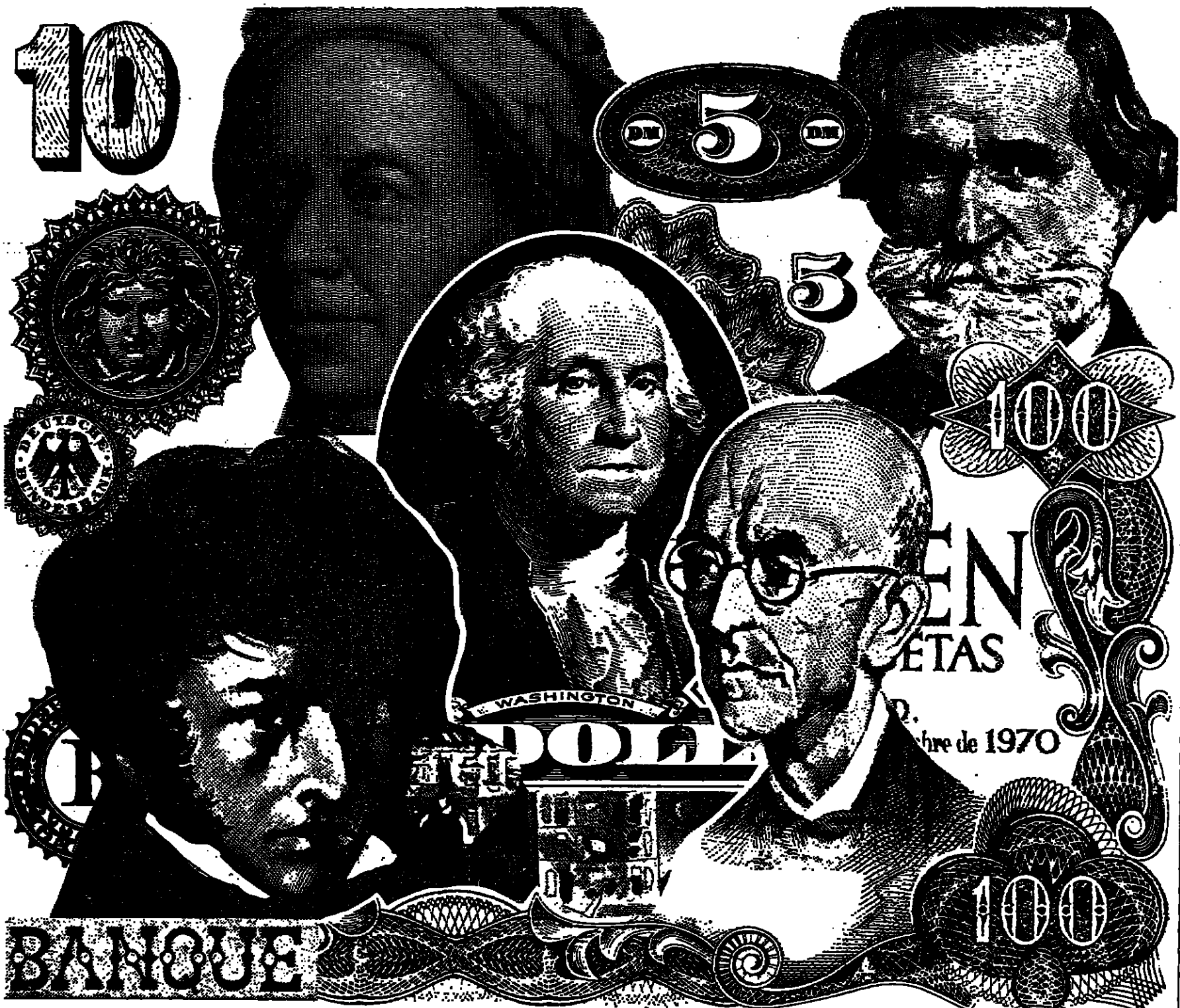
The city council plans to spend £1m in 12 months to boost job opportunities. £100,000 of it on industrial and commercial promotion overseas. A consortium has been formed with the Chamber of Commerce and local industry to push the city during visits to overseas trade fairs. It has been successful in Sweden and Germany and a civic delegation was sent to California.

But the council point out:

"Of course, Sheffield is still the City of Steel. We would not have it otherwise. It is our intention to diversify only to provide alternative forms of employment for sons and daughters who no longer wish to follow their parents into the factories and mills made famous by the legend, 'Made in Sheffield'."

In the Hallam Tower Hotel at Broomfield, three miles outside the centre, the whole of one wall of the restaurant is decorated with reproductions of old cutlery boxes. One company announces itself as "Cutler to the King of England and all the potentates of the world." The world has gone. "But never mind," said a local businessman over his gin and tonic. "We still make 50 per cent of the world's razor blades."

Alan Forrest



Last year BBA welcomed over 17 million foreign visitors to Britain.

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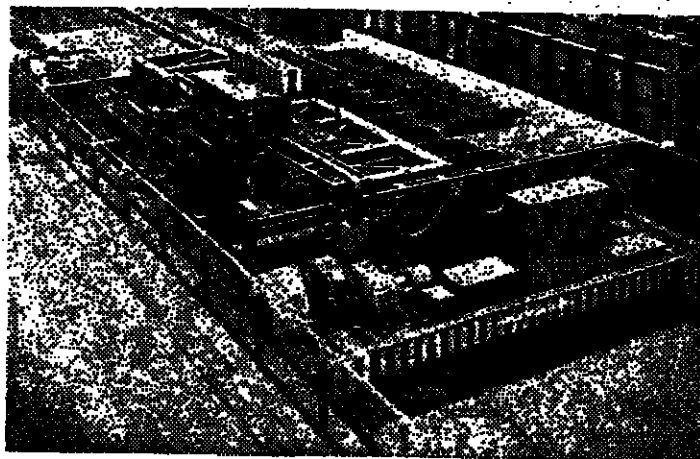
BBA Group products were seen at major trade exhibitions, including Mintex automotive components in Amsterdam, Railko bearings in Hanover, Scandura conveyor belting in Istanbul, and Regina-Fibreglass products in Peking. As a result of these international efforts, there were many first time orders as well as the continued growth of existing overseas contracts. New sales successes ranged from the choice of Mintex friction materials for the Peugeot 505 models, to a record order of bearings for Sudan Railways and a contract to supply \$1 million of belting for use in China's mining industry.

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YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE III

Motorway seen as key to prosperity

SOUTH HUMBERSIDE still does not seem to have digested the fact that it was carved off Lincolnshire in 1974 and counted with a bigger lump of Yorkshire across the Humber estuary—but that does not mean to say that it is actually suffering from indigestion. Indeed there is a certain serenity about the area and the locals will tell you that it is a good place to live.

It embraces the steel of Scunthorpe, the chemical complexes including Fliskborough, sited on or close to the south bank of the Humber, Grimsby, still top of the league in Britain's declining fishing industry and also the UK capital of the frozen food industry; another hoping-to-become more important deep-sea port, Immingham; and plenty of rich agricultural land of north Lincolnshire.

South Humberside has its share of ambitious plans for development. In truth they have not advanced greatly of late, but the area is keeping its fingers crossed, expecting to ride out the present economic storm without too many setbacks, and is optimistic about its medium and long-term future.

The key to a more prosperous future is not seen to be the opening of the grand Humber Bridge—whenever that much belated event might actually happen—although it will have a powerful unifying influence on this split-seamed county. Much more important, it is felt, is the extension of the M180 from about two miles east of Brigg, just short of Humberside airport, to Immingham, listed as top priority in last week's White Paper, and Grimsby, promised by 1983.

For too long the area has been disadvantaged by not being linked to the national motorway network. Now Scunthorpe is beginning to enjoy the fruits of the first section of the M180, which joins the north-south M18 near Thorne, and Grimsby and Immingham are expectantly awaiting confirmation at the moment that the extension will go ahead for completion by 1983, and will not be postponed because of national economy cuts. Those ports will then be able to take

better advantage of geography by increased trade with northern Europe.

My choice of hors d'oeuvres at a Grimsby hotel, "Fisher-man's Platter," tasty though it was, it seemed to typify the decline of that town's traditional industry—not one of the four piscine ingredients was fresh-landed. Two were tinned, one was frozen and the cockles and mussels came from a large jar!

However, it is precisely because Grimsby is a port that it has development area status, for which it would not qualify on grounds of local unemployment, now 7.2 per cent and rising. Food freezers Ross have just closed a sea factory with the loss of 400 jobs, and Findus is due to close a cold store with the loss of 100 more. A modest increase in part-time work at Findus has resulted from the success of a new line, the French bread pizza, whose assembly is largely a manual task.

Realising that the climate

this year is not exactly the best for attracting new industry, Grimsby is emphasising to existing industry that it, too, is eligible for grants, for extensions, although the rate is to be cut from 20 per cent to 15 per cent from August 1. It also has its eye on Eurogrants.

Grimsby is also keeping a close watch on a piece of legislation that has been published in draft form, the Local Government Planning and Land (No. 2) Bill. For it is short of industrial land (more of it falls in Cleethorpes, whose area surrounds Grimsby's on all sides). It is not too happy with the way the British Docks Transport Board (BDTB) is allowing a lot of space to be used for the storage of Volkswagen and other imported cars. This is not a labour-intensive activity, and Grimsby hopes that the BDTB will see the wisdom of economising on storage space and releasing some land to the authority for uses that will help create more jobs.

Grimsby's morale has been boosted by its soccer club's winning the Third Division championship, and a vigorous housing renewal programme is being pursued.

Nearby deep-water port Immingham, which comes within Cleethorpes Council's boundaries, is thriving, with Fisons, Courtaulds and Laporte complexes needing ample water for cooling purposes, which the Humber provides. There is plenty of scope for expansion, and this looks to be a port with a big future.

Purposeful

Scunthorpe, a modern shun-less industrial town with well-schemed roads, has its problems but is facing them purposefully. British Steel's fierce pruning, plus consequential losses of 800 jobs at Redpath Engineering and 300 at Stanton underground iron-ore mine and Normanby Park coke oven will mean a three-year loss of some 4,600 jobs by March, 1981.

The council is having success with its policy of providing small industrial units, of between 1,000 and 2,500 sq. feet in the main. These are being taken up with some regularity for such work as making jeans and angle brackets—the latter an example of "privatisation" of work that formerly might have been done in-house at steel plants. There is plenty of land ready—and likely to be needed—to continue providing for small new industry.

But Scunthorpe is not neglecting the lobbying. A deputation has already been to Whitehall to see Lord Trenchard, Minister of State, Department of Industry, to plead against its loss of intermediate status for development aid on the grounds that the decision was taken before the current financial year's expected loss of 2,688 steel jobs was known, and local Euro-MP Bob Battersby is setting up a three-man visit to Brussels to seek an EEC grant.

Immediate prospects for South Humberside are not bright—but they are no gloomier than those of the rest of the country as a whole. There is overall confidence that the 3,000 acres available for industrial development will be taken up in the 1980s and that the area will gain significantly in prosperity—the map says so.

Alan Forrest

James French



The decisive factor in any new business development in the Bradford area must surely be the skill and reliability of its workpeople—

Jack Peel, EEC Director of Industrial Relations.

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Fishing failure casts shadow over Hull

"I'M AFRAID we're just one part of the whole Eurosme," said Mr. Richard Kemp, Hull's assistant director of industrial relations. He was talking about the fishing industry, which is a sore point to every Hullian at the moment.

Only a few days before a large crowd of sightseers had assembled at the fish dock. Why? Because a trawler had landed. That was something Hull took in its stride in the old days but now it is such a rare happening that the tourists turn out. "As a fishing port, we're dead," said one old trawlerman.

Of course, Mr. Kemp hastens to point out that fishing accounts for only about 8 per cent of the city's labour force, and so the decline is not a disaster in terms of jobs.

But fishing has always given the city its touch of romance. It was the great deep-sea fishing port. The whole of the famous Hestle Road district grew up around it, a kind of garish, boisterous East End Yorkshire-style. Now that district will die. Other Yorkshire and Humberside ports are feeling the pinch too, notably Grimsby, just across the Humber.

Even the inshore ports like Scarborough and Bridlington are not doing so well as in recent years when the decline of the deep-sea trade gave them a temporary boost. Now, as Mr. Kemp says, with talk of 200-mile limits just about everywhere is inshore.

Four years ago Hull had 78 trawlers; now it has about 25. Moreover, the alternatives to Hull's deep-sea trade have not worked out so well as expected.

Nothing right

There was the great pursuit of blue whiting off the west coast of Scotland. But unfortunately the British like white fish, and have been encouraged to do so by the White Fish Authority. Mackerel-fishing plans did not work out too well, either. Nothing has seemed to go right for Hull's fishermen.

"There is no doubt that membership of the EEC has been a disaster for the fishing industry," Mr. Kemp says. "Had we not been a member, we could have come to some real working arrangements with Norway and Canada. It's amazing to think that it is only 18 years ago the first freezer trawler, the Lord Nelson, came to Hull and after only 18 years the freezer trawler is

dead so far as Hull is concerned."

But hope is not entirely dead. The council has been assured by the Docks Board that it has no intention of closing the fish dock at the moment.

Hull Fishing Vessel Owners went into liquidation some time ago. But the council is involved in talks at present in an attempt to form some kind of co-operative with the bobbers (dockers who land fish) and, with some form of Government help, to buy the vessel owners' body back from the receiver.

Whatever happens to the industry day to day, Hull is determined to remain a centre of fishing know-how. The College of Further Education is building up one of the world's main centres for studying the science and technology of fishing and this work will continue.

Chats around the city produce an amazing range of views. "It was a smelly, mucky job, any road" is one commonly held opinion, but more realistic people refuse to play down the effect the death of the industry will have on the job situation.

Poor redundancy

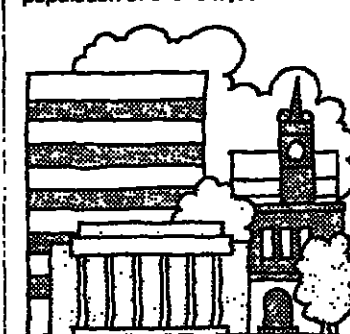
Some point out that in all the threatened fishing ports, as well as Hull, the decline could provide a new kind of executive unemployment. There are senior officers of ships, now in their mid-50s, who would be pretty well unemployable at their old level and who, because of the peculiar economics of the industry, get nothing like the redundancy settlements made by shore-based industries.

Industrial development officials are quick to point out that outside the fishing scene the city's economy is in reasonable health. The port last year handled 4.4m tonnes of general cargo and a new 10m berth is open. "We may be losing but we've got Mr. Sheen, Cherry Blossom, Elastoplast and Nivea Cream," said one optimist.

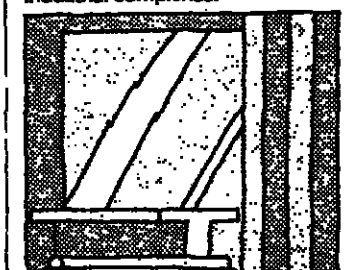
Hull has a diversity of industries. Its biggest single employer is British Aerospace, with 5,000 making components for the Hawk, the Harrier and the Airbus. It has a huge Northern Foods centre and eight operating divisions of Reckitt and Colman.

But the fishing failure has cast a shadow over the city. In one pub a disconsolate trawlerman produced a brand new exercise book, a compass and a brand new pen. "That's my kit for going back to school," he

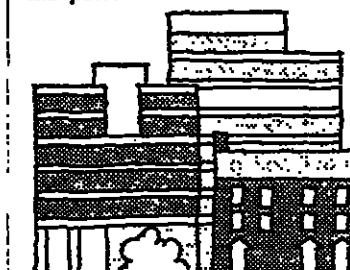
England's fourth largest city with a population of over 547,000.



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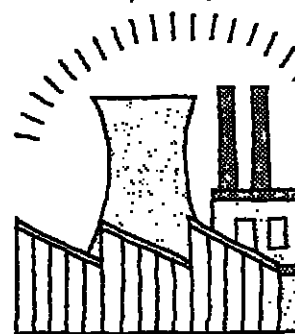
A growing regional office centre with major organisations such as the Midland Bank and the Manpower Services Commission.



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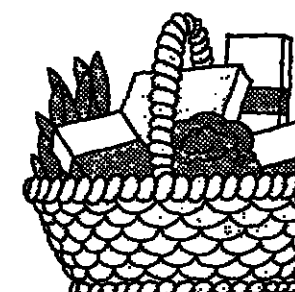
Acknowledged as the cleanest industrial city in Europe.



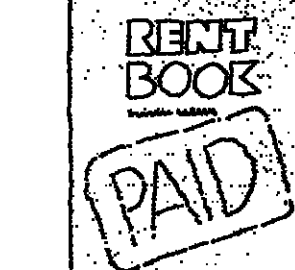
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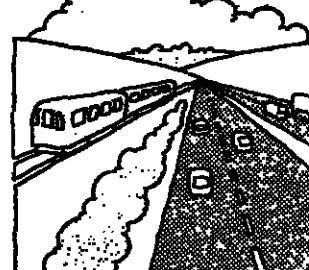
Other Grants to service industries include 3 year rent free periods. Removal expenses up to 80%.



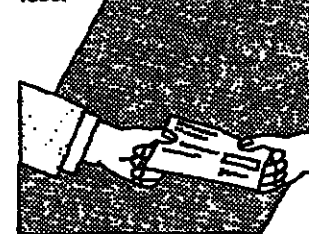
Internationally recognised for its research facilities, especially in steel, engineering, cutlery and glass technology.



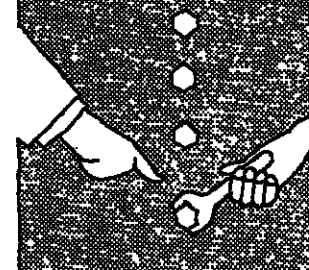
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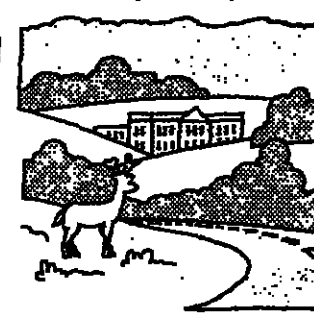
Regional Development Grants for manufacturing companies 20% of the capital costs for new or refurbished buildings plus associated fees up to 1st August 1980.



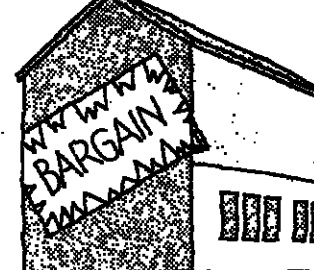
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Unloading a trawler at Hull

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Region presses for influx of tourists

ONLY A few years ago the idea that anyone, when asked where he was spending a few days' holiday, might answer "Halifax" would have made even a loyal Yorkshireman choke over his pint of Tetterley's bitter. But if the efforts of the Yorkshire and Humberside Tourist Board are as successful as they promise, a lot of towns not usually associated with tourism in that part of the world will be getting into the business.

Guidebook

The region is, of course, famed for its mills, steelworks and engineering factories. But it also has handsome wide open spaces, rolling farmland, lovely dales and a coastline which, for sandy beaches and cliff scenery, is unrivalled in Britain.

The Board's guidebook reels off facts and figures showing the hugeness of the holiday region—5,000 square miles taking in two national parks; 100 miles of coastline with

600 ft cliffs; Roman, Viking and Norman remains; grand hotels and camping sites.

All these areas are within easy reach of the industrial towns with their rapid communications and improving hotel facilities. They are already busy throughout the week with business conferences and the board's main object is to encourage the visiting businessmen to put down his briefcase, linger longer and see a little more of the region — and even perhaps stay for a real holiday later on.

Mr. W. J. Chapman, the board's development services manager, trots out impressive statistics to support the argument. Sheffield, for instance, is ideally positioned for trips to the coast and into the Derby-

shire hills, has a 72 per cent hotel bed occupancy rate over the year, higher even than York, the city everybody wants to visit. Harrogate, with its new conference centre opening shortly, is also getting a new Holiday Inn to add to the town's present total of 2,000 hotel bedrooms.

In Leeds tourism is already a £28m-a-year business, and although this is mostly from businessmen, it also includes shoppers from Holland and Scandinavia. Even Scunthorpe, not particularly famed for its waters or its night life, manages to fill 63 per cent of its hotel accommodation over the year.

Mr. Chapman and his staff are staunch salesmen of their region's attractions. The board

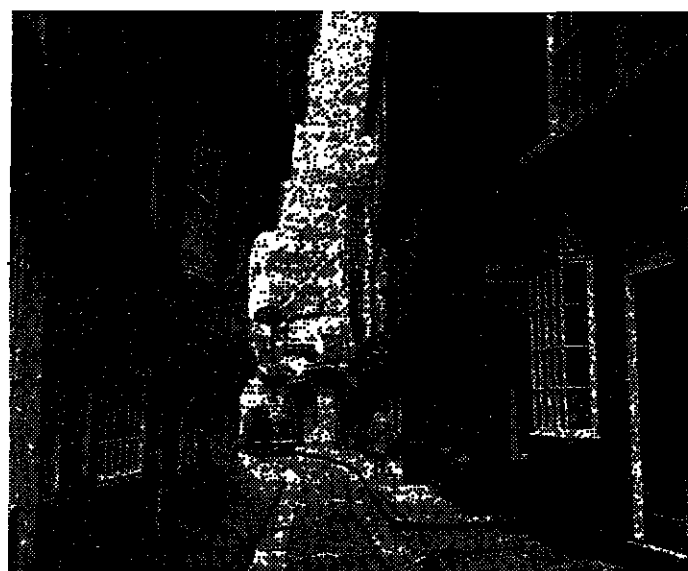
is based at York, itself a showpiece city, attracting more visitors in a season than even Stratford-on-Avon and only half-an-hour from the coast. Scarborough, the most handsome of the Yorkshire resorts, has recently taken on a new lease of life with the acquisition of the Grand Hotel by Butlins — even if some of the more conservative townspeople consider this a rate worse than death for the great old hotel that has housed Prime Ministers and poets in the past.

Another boost to the business has been the popularity of the James Herriot Yorkshire "vet" series on television. The series has been a great success in the U.S. — particularly in the farming States — and a York hotelier told me: "Now we're getting Americans asking 'How do we get to Garrowby?' (the market town featured in the series). We send them to Thirsk, but if they want the atmosphere any of the dales will do."

Moorland air

Over in the west county, Haworth where the Brontës lived on the edge of the moors, attracts 2m visitors a year. These vary from day trippers who just want to breathe in the moorland air to earnest young American post-graduate students writing lofty theses and wanting to walk in the steps of Heathcliffe and Cathy.

The Board is at present campaigning to attract more investment in self-catering accommodation in the county. Although there are many caravan parks, holiday homes and camping sites, there is room for more. Officials point out that the attraction is not only to companies in the catering field. Individuals wanting a week-end



Fourteenth century houses in The Shambles, York, and (below) the Royal Baths at Harrogate



Portakabin plans a new enterprise

IN THE middle of the Libyan desert, a film director shouts "Cut" and the crew and the star, Anthony Quinn, disperse to a portable village for lunch and a swim in the pool.

At Taplow, in Buckinghamshire, newborn babies are spending their first days in a portable nursery unit attached to a local hospital.

Meanwhile at Buckingham Palace, police are watching the tradesman's entrance from a portable police station.

All these stories have one thing in common, a flourishing go-ahead company called Portakabin, based just outside York.

It manufactures portable accommodation units and in its 20 years of existence has taken on the whole world.

The original idea was that of Mr. Donald Shepherd, head of the Shepherd Construction group, a York-based company in the business of traditional buildings. At first the portable units were simply sold for use as site offices in the building industry, but as design and production improved, so did their scope, and the 30,000 Portakabin units now in use all over the world include offices, computer centres, public houses, canteens, banks and even living quarters for hitherto homeless.

Mr. Piers Shepherd, a director of the company and grandson of the founder, proudly shows visitors round the company's headquarters, set in a green spot a few miles from the city centre, and completely built from the company's own portable units.

Portakabin is one of the showpieces of the Yorkshire and Humberside industrial scene.

And even now, in the generally doubtful economic climate, it is talking of expansion. A new division has been formed called Portahome — Portahome brings the advantage of instant accommodation to domestic living," the slogan goes.

COMPANY PROFILE

Mr. Paul Knockner is the head of the new division. The idea is to provide homes cheaper than those produced by traditional building methods. The company realises there are bridges to cross — the British preference for traditional building, questions of planning permission and so on. But it believes it will eventually be on a winner.

Mr. Knockner says: "The speed and ease of the whole operation is important, both to developers and buyers. And because the units are completely fitted out, they can be occupied within hours of arrival on site. Also, with spiralling energy prices, the remarkably effective all-round insulation of these homes should result in very low fuel bills."

The company's headquarters now has a Portahome village showing a selection of the living units, tastefully furnished. Furniture would be extra, of course, but the company would probably advise on what was most suitable. At the moment Mr. Knockner's thoughts lean towards holiday villages and other self-catering units rather

than individual householders. "For example," he says, "think of the number of pubs with huge car parks that could instead, say half-a-dozen units, and do a whole new business in bed and breakfasts."

In the meantime, the other work goes on. Production resources include extensive woodwork machine shops, metal fabrication facilities which include forming, welding, shot-blasting of steel and aluminium components and a complete fitting out service.

Portakabin's "Xporta" units are specially designed for remote areas overseas where skilled building labour is not often available. They are shipped in a packing case. The four corner posts which keep the pack compressed during transit have integral crane points for lifting the roof. Unskilled workers can complete the building within two hours of the packing case being delivered on the site. It is, as one of Portakabin's design team says, much easier than a Leggo set.

The company has won the Queen's Award for Industry and has recently been made the subject of a film — one of a series called The Best of British, which will be shown at main cinemas.

A.F.

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For more information contact Ian R. Holden, B.Sc. (Econ.), F.B.I.M., Director of Industrial Development, 77 Lowgate, Kingston upon Hull HU1 1HP. Tel: (0482) 222626



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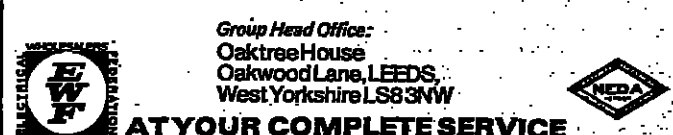
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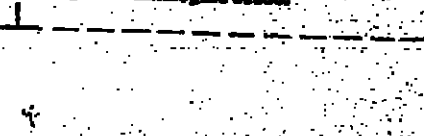
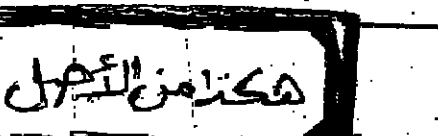
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These bedroom and bathroom units could, says Portakabin, enable pubs to enter the bed and breakfast trade

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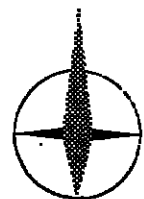
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offer that "a handful of resources to the hungry millions of developing countries."

The WFC did conclude that an idea launched at its last conference, in Ottawa, had become something of a success. The scheme, called "food strategies" called for developing countries, with the help of individual donors, to prepare overall food and agricultural plans so that aid could be channelled by the donor to the most deserving sector. The account on raising domestic food production and so far the scheme has been adopted by 32 developing nations.

The idea was opposed in some countries (notably Mexico and Yugoslavia) who were afraid that the presence of a veritable food strategy would become a condition of assistance. The WFC, in its c

The thread which ran through the presentations of western donor nations was that the newly oil-rich OPEC countries could and should do much more for the Third World nations critically burdened by oil bills.

U.S. talks on EEC wheat subsidies

WASHINGTON — Trade Administration may seek bilateral talks with the European Community on a complaint by a U.S. trade group over EEC wheat export subsidies. U.S. agriculture department officials said.

The U.S. trade office last summer upheld the complaint and found that EEC wheat export subsidies substantially reduced U.S. sales to foreign markets.

MARKETS

[illegible]

ounce. † Cents per troy ounce.
‡ Cents per 56-lb bushel. † Cent
per 60-lb bushel. ¶ \$ per short ton
(2,000 lbs). § Can. per metric ton
(\$5.6 per 1,000 on last 1 Cent.

MARKETS

Soyameal—44 per cent protein U.S. alfalfa \$214, June \$214, July \$217, Aug.

208. \$220, Sept. \$223, Oct. \$230, Nov.-March
 \$236. Brazil Pollets affoot \$221, 1922
 \$221, July \$223, Aug. \$225, Sept. \$226
 Oct. \$234.50, Nov.-March \$246.
 PARIS, June 1
 Cocoa (FEF per 100 kilos)

Sugar (FFr per 100 kilos)—July 2920/2990, Aug. 3022/3030, Oct. 3198

Jan.	1,120,	Sept.	1,077-1,080,	Dec.	1,
Feb.	1,107,	March	1,125,	May	1,140,
May	1,160.	Salés	at call, 1.		

Dow Jones	June 9	June 6	Month ago	Year ago
115.25	115.25	115.25	115.25	115.25

(Average 1924-25-26-100)

June 10	June 9	M'nth ago	Year ago
1664.0	1670.5	1720.5	1629.5

(Base: September 18, 1931=100):

Per pound 0.05-0.08¢; French: Duke 2.50, Princess 2.20; Greek: 3.00. Carrots—French: 22-lb 3.50, 26-lb 4.50; Italian: 3.50; Cyprus: 3.30. Rootstocks

Cyprus: New crop, approx. 22-lb 3
Cabbages—Dutch: White 2.50-2
Courgettes—French: Per pound 0
0.30.

0.60-0.70. Apples—Per pound Bramble
0.11-0.19. Strawberries—English per
1/2 lb 0.15-0.20. Cabbages—Per ba

50.	1.20-1.30.	Cauliflowers—Per
70.	English 2.50-3.50.	Peas—Per po
sh:	0.25.	Broad Beans—Per pound 0
00.	0.12.	Cucumbers—Trays 18/20s 2
eli:	2.60.	Tomatoes—Per 12-lb 2.60.3

Rhubarb—Per pound outdoor 0.05
Onions—Per bag 6.50-6.80. Celery—
English 12/30s 3.60-4.20. Asparagus—
Per pound 0.90-1.00. Lettuce—Co

00. 1.50, Webbs 1.20-1.40, Par pound 0.25, Gooseberries

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High	Low			\$	+ -	%
Financial						
984	962	FFI 13pc 1981		98 1/2	+ 1/2	13.22
983	939	Do 14pc '83		98 1/2	+ 1/2	14.25
95	79	FFRUS Pgdgpc 90-2		84	+ 1/2	6.61
85	79	Do 6pc 84-93-84		84	+ 1/2	6.61
80	80	Do 10pc 1981-86		85	+ 1/2	12.31
894	77	Do 11pc Uns Lns '88		84 1/2	+ 1	13.01
892	82	Do 11pc Uns Lns '80		87 1/2	+ 1	13.50
63	56	Do 7pc Adm 89-92		60	+ 1/2	12.96
63	56	Do 7pc Adm 89-92		60	+ 1/2	12.96
61	51 1/2	Do 7pc Adm 89-92		60 1/2	+ 1/2	12.97
67	61	Do 7pc Adm 89-92		67	+ 1/2	13.84
67 1/2	61	Do 12pc 1981-92		67 1/2	+ 1/2	14.02
84 1/2		Do 12pc 1981-92		62	+ 1/2	

FINANCE, LAND—Continued				
1999	2000	2001	2002	2003

[illegible][illegible]

14.7	90	85	Do. Prof. 80p	87	85
56.0	222	215	T'vaz. Cons. Ltd. R1	215	1018
6	215	210	U. C. Invest. R1	210	060

[illegible]

42	Distillers	17	P & O Ltd	18	Edin Jackson Corp
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72	F.R.F.C.	24	R.H.M.	41	Premier
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87	Gen. Placemat	26	Reed Int'l	16	Tricondrol

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